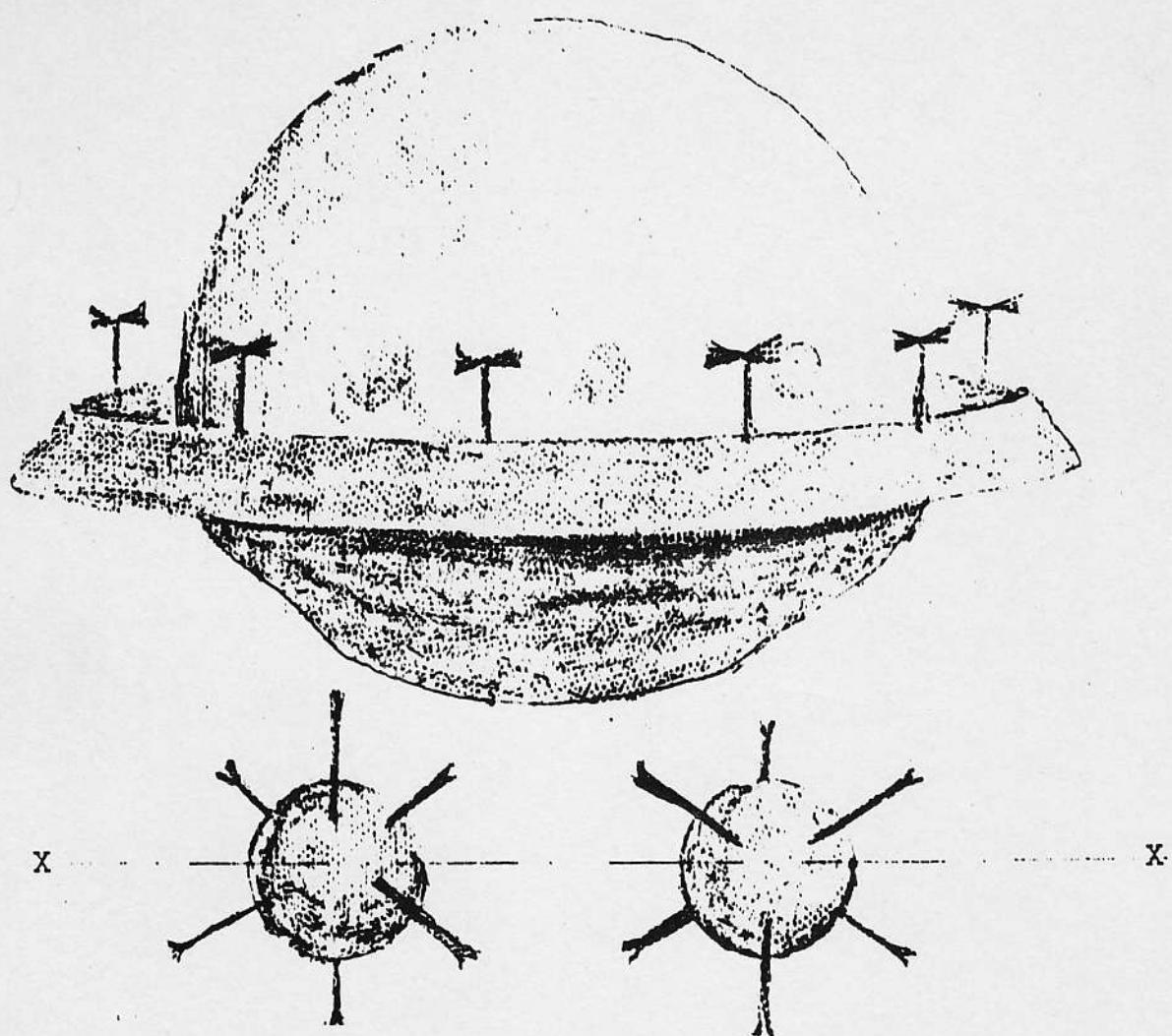


CLOSE ENCOUNTER AT LIVINGSTON



THE BRITISH UFO RESEARCH ASSOCIATION



BUFORA
British UFO Research Association

BUFORA Case History No. 1

CLOSE ENCOUNTER AT LIVINGSTON

By Steuart Campbell

Edited by
Charles F. Lockwood and Leslie W. Bayer

First edition July 1982

Published by the British UFO Research
Association (BUFORA Ltd.)

All rights reserved.
No part of this Case History may be
reproduced or transmitted without
written permission of BUFORA Ltd.

The Council of BUFORA wishes to express its thanks to Steuart Campbell and Betty Wood who have made the publication of this Case History possible.

The former through the giving of hundreds of hours of his time to the professional investigation, research and writing of the report, and to Betty Wood for her generous gift in financing the printing and publication of this Case History.

Council would also like to record their appreciation of the willing co-operation of Mr. and Mrs. Taylor.

L. W. Bayer,
Chairman.

THE BRITISH UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT RESEARCH ASSOCIATION (BUFORA) is dedicated to the scientific investigation of UFO phenomena, and stresses the importance of an objective approach. Its aims clearly show that it has two interlinked roles: firstly research and investigation, and secondly, activities of an educational nature.

AIMS (as formally stated in the Memorandum of Association)

1. To encourage, promote and conduct unbiased scientific research of unidentified flying objects (UFO) phenomena throughout the United Kingdom.
2. To collect and disseminate evidence and data relating to unidentified flying objects (UFO's).
3. To co-ordinate UFO research throughout the United Kingdom and to co-operate with others engaged in such research throughout the world.

BUFORA does not advocate any particular theory and recognises that there are a number of hypotheses.

The Association does not hold or express corporate views on UFO phenomena.

Membership is open to any person with a genuine and non-cultist interest in UFO's and who supports the general aims of the Association.

Any general enquiries should go to the Hon. Secretary, Miss B. Wood, 6 Cairn Avenue, Ealing, London, W5 5HX.

Application forms are available from the Membership Secretary, Miss P.M.A. Kennedy, MBE, 30 Vermont Road, London, SE19 3SR.

Current Subscription £10.00 p.a.

Enrolment Fee £2.50.

Contents

	page
1 Summary	4
2 Introduction	5
3 The course of the investigation	6
4 The site of the encounter	9
5 The witness	11
6 The encounter	11
7 The journey back home	13
8 The news spreads	15
9 The ground markings	17
10 The damage to clothing	17
11 Identification of the smell	19
12 Examination of the soil	21
13 Meteorological data	22
Analysis of Data and Inferences	
14 How long was Robert unconscious?	23
15 Could Robert have torn his clothes on the journey home?	23
16 Could the ground marks have been made by equipment lying in the grass?	23
17 Could the ground marks have been made by mechanical equipment or machinery?	23
18 Comment on the illustration of UFOs	29
19 Hypnotism	29
20 False reports	29
21 Was the report true?	30
22 What was the cause of the ground marks?	31
23 How were the trousers torn?	32
24 Why did the witness lose consciousness?	32
25 Was the object a secret man-made craft?	33
26 Was the object an alien spacecraft?	33
27 Was the object a natural phenomenon?	34
28 Contemporary UFO reports	34
29 Discussion of the press reports	35
30 Notes and references	37
Appendix 1 - Location of plans and photographs	38
Appendix 2 - Police Forensic Science Lab Report	39
Appendix 3 - Statement by P.C. William Douglas	43
Appendix 4 - Statement by D.C. John Wark	44
Appendix 5 - Statement by Robert D. Taylor	45
Appendix 6 - C.I.D. Report on the case	46
Appendix 7 - Statement by Dr. Gordon J.H. Adams	48
Appendix 8 - Statement by Mrs. Taylor	49
Appendix 9 - Reduced copies of D.C. Wark's plan of the ground marks	50
Appendix 10 - Press Reports	51

CLOSE ENCOUNTER AT LIVINGSTON

SUMMARY

1) A 61-year-old foreman forester encountered a large dome-shaped object sitting in a forest clearing. Almost immediately two spheres with 'legs' rolled rapidly towards him, attached themselves to his trousers and began to pull him towards the 'craft'. Subsequently he was nearly choked by an overpowering acrid smell, and collapsed unconscious. When he came round, the objects had disappeared, but leaving strange marks in the grass.

These marks were seen, measured and photographed by the local police, among others; they are independent corroboration of the witness's story. Subsequently, the witness's trousers and underpants were found to have been torn in a way that was only consistent with the account of the incident.

Investigation has not shaken the witness's account, nor found any reason to question its reliability. No conventional explanation has been found for the marks on the ground, or for the damage to clothing. Although there is a medical condition which can account for the physiological effects, including the smell, the exact stimulus for this condition is still uncertain.

The witness suffered no dreams and has revealed no further details under hypnosis. There are no paranormal overtones.

Investigation has found no evidence either for or against the extra-terrestrial hypothesis. An explanation in terms of a natural phenomenon is suggested by the investigator.

The event received extensive press coverage - an interesting phenomenon in its own right.

The case is one that is both strange and well documented. It offers a challenge to science, and perhaps the key to the UFO enigma.

INTRODUCTION

2) According to a convention now generally accepted, this is an account of a 'Close Encounter of the Second Kind' (CE2). That is to say it describes a UFO seen close to the witness, and one which interacted with the environment. In this case it left evidence of its presence and affected the witness. The case is important for several reasons. The UFO was seen clearly in daylight, ground marks were seen and recorded by the local police (as well as by our investigator), clothing was damaged by the UFO, and the witness became unconscious, apparently due to some influence by the UFO. Sceptics have often said that there is no case which is both strange and reliable. However, this is such a case. No-one can argue with police evidence; the police can testify that anomalous and inexplicable marks were found in the ground at the site where the witness alleges the encounter occurred. This evidence corroborates his story, even though he was the only witness. As will be seen, the integrity of the witness himself has not been questioned by anyone familiar with the case; he had no interest in UFOs, and was not aware that similar objects had been seen all over the world. Nor has his account of the incident varied, despite retelling many times. No ordinary convincing explanation has been produced for the damage to his clothing.

It was fortunate that a capable amateur photographer was available to obtain good quality pictures of the ground marks within 24 hours, and before they were obliterated by visitors and snow. It is rare for such good records to be available, and for the negatives not to be mislaid. It is also fortunate that the encounter was made public within so short a time and that one of our most experienced investigators lived close by. It has to be admitted that without the press publicity we would not have learned of the encounter in time to have seen and photographed the ground marks. It is ironic that this publicity was occasioned by the idea that aliens had landed and had attempted to abduct a human being. There is no evidence that this is at all a true picture of what happened.

The local police had never before experienced such a case, and were clearly mystified. It is to their credit that they never questioned the honesty of the report, at least not once they heard character references and saw the ground marks. After that they took the case seriously and co-operated with our investigator.

We are indebted to all those, both inside and outside BUFORA, who have assisted us in this investigation. We especially thank Alistair Sutherland for permission to reproduce some of his excellent photographs. Most of all we thank the witness, Robert Taylor, for his co-operation.

The use of the term 'UFO' in this report implies no special significance; it is simply a convenient shorthand for an anomalous object.

This case history is not intended to be a definitive explanation of the incident. However, the investigation naturally asks some relevant questions (as in sections 25-27), reviewing the evidence for and against different hypotheses. The views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of BUFORA.

The case has received wide publicity and interest throughout Britain and the world. It has featured on British television (BBC's 'Nationwide' programme, and Yorkshire Television's 'The Mysterious World of Arthur C. Clarke'), and has been reviewed briefly by William Raynor in The Observer Magazine (1980 Nov 02), and by Simon Welfare and John Fairley in their book Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious World (1980). The first report of the case in the UFO press was Steuart Campbell's article 'Close Encounter in Scotland' in Journal of Transient Aerial

Phenomena (Vol.1/2; Mar 1980). This was followed by accounts by Martin Keatman and Andrew Collins in Flying Saucer Review (Vol.25/6; Nov-Dec 1979*: Vol.26/1; Spring 1980; Vol.26/3; Sept 1980; 'Physical Assault by Unidentified Objects at Livingston'.)

Investigation of the case is not, and perhaps never will be, closed. Investigation will continue until a full and adequate explanation is found. Such an explanation may solve the UFO problem.

THE COURSE OF THE INVESTIGATION

3) On the evening of Friday, November 9, 1979, I was telephoned at my home by a reporter from The Glasgow Herald newspaper. He informed me that a forestry worker at Livingston (a new town some 20 km west of Edinburgh (See Figure 11)) had been 'attacked by small furry creatures, which had emerged from a transparent space-craft which had left tracks in the ground'. The reporter gave me the name, address and telephone number of the witness, and stated that the local police were investigating the case.

Naturally I was very interested in the report, if a little sceptical of its accuracy. I was informed that the witness was not available, having gone to England for the weekend. It was late and dark, and there was nothing I could do until more details became available, and the witness returned home. But I resolved that the report deserved a full investigation on behalf of BUFORA.

The following morning newspapers (The Scotsman and The Glasgow Herald) brought fuller accounts of the incident, confirming what I had been told, except that the 'creatures' were 'furry'. Since the police were involved I decided to make my interest known to them. Enquiries revealed that the incident was being investigated by the F Division of Lothian and Borders Police, located at Bathgate Police Station. Upon telephoning them, I was immediately invited to go to Bathgate to discuss the case.

At Bathgate Police Station I was introduced to the Superintendent in charge and shown the routine police report on the incident. This told me little more than I knew already. I was not allowed to have a copy of this report. Clearly the police were baffled.

I was then conducted to the site of the incident by two police officers, one of whom was Detective Constable (now Detective Sergeant) Ian Wark. The site was already fenced off, and it was clear that many people had walked in and around the anomalous marks. Despite this the marks could be seen clearly, and I examined and photographed them as best I could. It is not easy to photograph grass. I was informed that the police had also taken photographs and measurements of the marks. They assured me that these photographs and measurements could be made available to me. Consequently I made no measurements myself. I had no other equipment with me at the time, and took no soil samples.

In the absence of the witness there was little more I could do that day, and I returned home.

Sunday (Nov 11) brought more press reports, and enquiries from reporters who had learned of my interest and my visit to the site.

*not published until late Spring 1980.

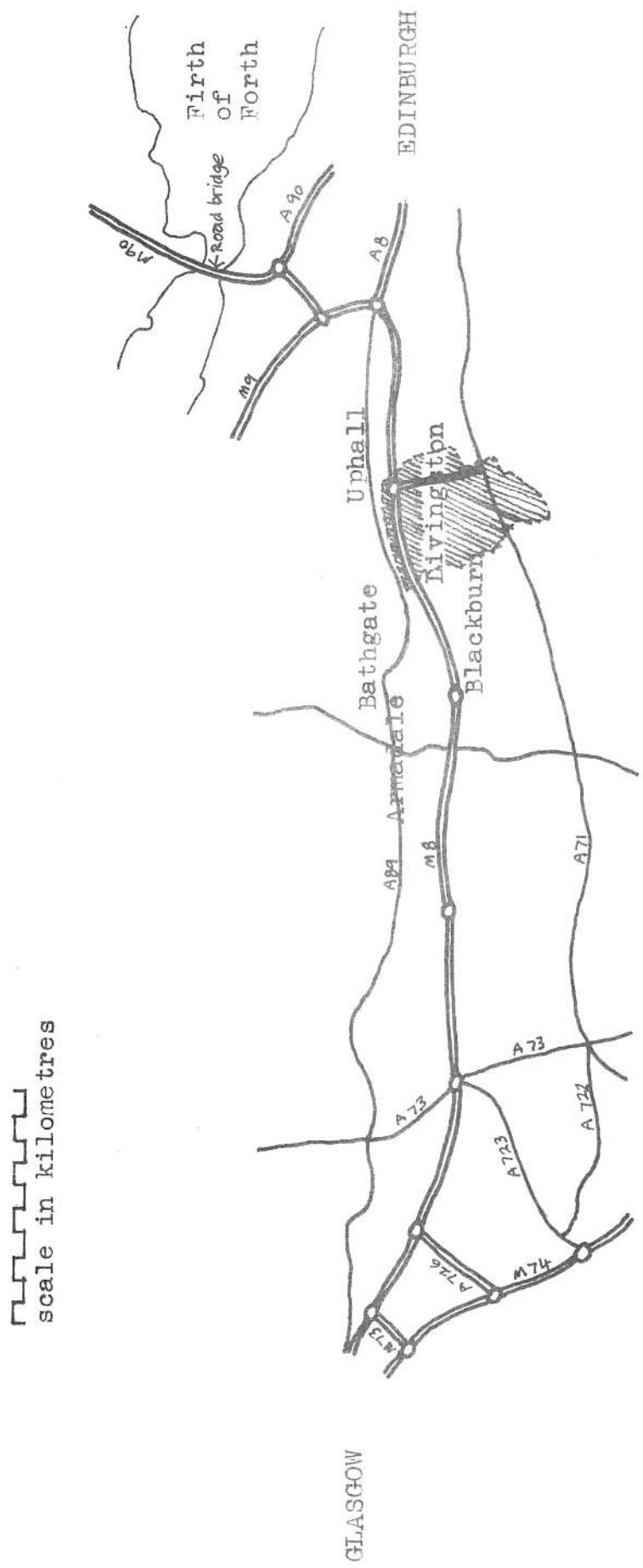


Figure 11: Location of Livingston

On Monday November 12, James Dougan (a BUFORA member who lives in Livingston) contacted the witness on my behalf and tried to arrange a meeting. He found this rather difficult since, by that time, the witness was inundated with enquiries from the press and other UFO investigation organizations. In fact some investigators were actually staying with him, sleeping on the floor of his living room!

Disliking the idea of conducting enquiries in concert with others (none of whom had made their presence known to me), and not wishing to burden the witness with my own questions when he had so many people pursuing him, I decided to wait until I could interview him alone.

Meanwhile Peter Hill (then Secretary of BUFORA's Edinburgh Branch) and I visited the site on Sunday Nov 18. More photographs were taken and measurements of the fenced area and the surroundings. We also made a fruitless visit to Livingston Police Station.

I was not able to arrange an interview with the witness until Tuesday Nov 27; this took place at the witness' house. No UFO literature was visible at the house.

At this interview I discovered that the clothing which the witness had been wearing at the time of the incident had been taken to the police headquarters in Edinburgh for forensic examination. This is standard police procedure in cases of assault (or alleged assault). Consequently that same day I visited the headquarters in Fettes Avenue, Edinburgh. After some difficulty I managed to see Inspector J. Veitch of the CID Identification Branch. Eventually he allowed me to see the clothing which was in the possession of their forensic scientist Lester Knibb.

The police had retained only the witness' trousers and long underpants, and I was able to discuss the damage to these items with Mr. Knibb. I ascertained that these items would eventually be returned to the witness. Inspector Veitch would not let me have a copy of the forensic report on the clothing, but he did let me have sight of it. A copy of the Forensic Report has since been supplied. - See Appendix No.2. Arrangements were made for DC Wark to let me have a copy of his site measurements. A subsequent written request to the Chief Constable for a copy of the witness' statement to the police and copies of the police photographs produced a negative response. It was declared that statements made to the police were in confidence and for police purposes only. (Copies of the statements and the CID report have since been supplied. - See Appendices 3-4-5 & 6.)

Another interview with the witness took place on Dec 06, 1979. On this occasion I accompanied him from his house to the site of the encounter, travelling, as he had on Nov 09, in the pick-up truck which he drives for his employer. I timed this journey. At the site I questioned and photographed him.

By this time the clothing had been returned to the witness. Unfortunately his wife had already thrown away the underpants, and only the trousers were available. He agreed that I, on behalf of BUFORA, could have the trousers, although he wanted to retain them to show TV interviewers and other UFO investigators. The trousers were eventually collected by James Dougan, who handed them to me on Feb 07, 1980. (The trousers are now in the possession of BUFORA's Trace Analysis Team).

Seeking good quality photographs of the site markings, I was put in touch with Alistair Sutherland, an amateur photographer and friend of the department

which employs the witness. Apparently he had taken photographs of the site marks early on the Saturday morning, before I arrived at the site. He retains negatives of the photographs but promised me a set of prints, which I was able to collect later.

Because of the medical aspects of the case, I sought assistance from Dr. Patricia (Pat) Hannaford, founder of the erstwhile Edinburgh University UFO Research Society. Although she was just about to go abroad, she interviewed the witness at his home on Sunday Dec 02, 1979, and submitted a written report to me on Dec 06.

Within a few days of the event, a soil sample was taken from one of the anomalous holes by Jim Davidson. This sample was later handed to me at a BUFORA (Edinburgh Branch) meeting, which Davidson attended as a guest. On Feb 26, 1980, I took a control sample from a convenient molehill (see Figure 1); (soil in molehills is actually soil from under the surface of the grass and so is free from surface contamination). Both samples were sent to BUFORA member and chemist Dr. Tom Straiton in Glasgow. He arranged for analysis of half of each sample to be made by Dr. Colin Farrow in the Geology Department of Glasgow University. Dr. Straiton also provided samples of gases which were later tested by the witness at my house on Feb 23, 1980.

One day in the spring of 1980 I visited the site again specifically to walk over and examine the route taken by the witness when he walked home after the encounter. I also timed the various stages of the journey, as described by the witness.

On Monday June 30, 1980, I visited the witness again at his home to go over his account and to clarify details. Later in the year I also discussed the case over the telephone with Malcolm Drummond, the witness' superior.

On Sept 03, 1980, the site was inspected again and photographed, and on Feb 06, 1981, another visit was made to the witness to clear details for this case history.

Investigation of medical aspects has been taken over by BUFORA member Dr. Alan Robertson of Glasgow, who has interviewed the witness.

Meteorological data was supplied by Dr. Keith Weston of the Department of Meteorology at the University of Edinburgh.

BUFORA member Fraser Gordon, who works as a civil engineer for Livingston Development Corporation supplied some valuable details including maps of the site area.

THE SITE OF THE ENCOUNTER

- 4) The site is a gently sloping grassy clearing at the junction of several tracks in forest plantations at the north of Livingston. The forest is a public recreation area, owned and managed by Livingston Development Corporation. The site is only 100 metres from the M8 motorway (Edinburgh-Glasgow), although it has no access to it, and it is not within sight of it. Access to the site is difficult, via back roads and forest tracks. The grid reference is NT 035 703 (OS sheet No.65); it is 175 M above mean sea level. There are no cables or installations near the site and the area has never been sprayed with chemicals. See Figure 12.

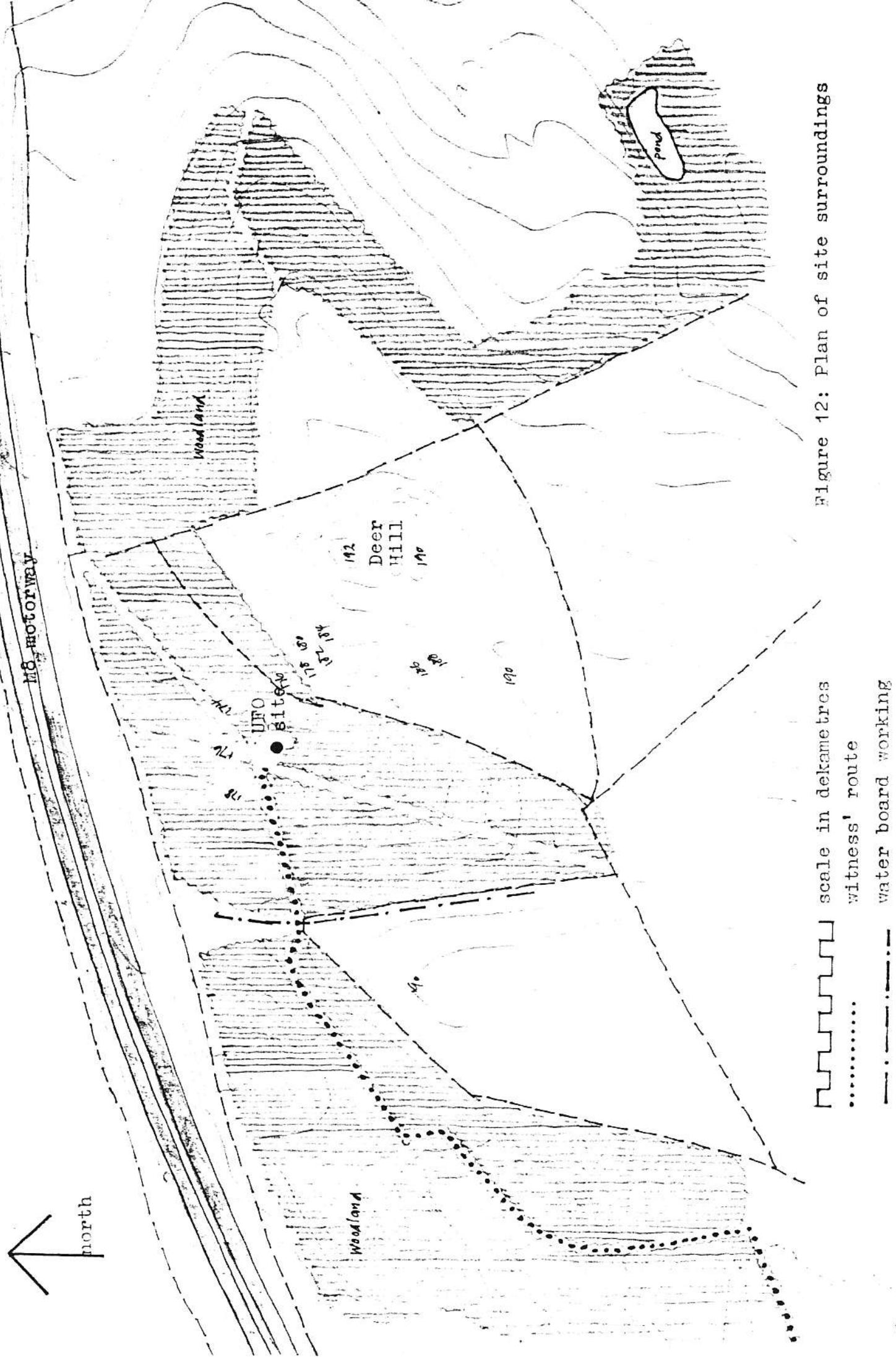


Figure 12: Plan of site surroundings

THE WITNESS

5) Robert David Taylor was 61 at the time of the incident. He has worked all his life on the land in Scotland, and for 16 years had worked as a forester in the Forestry Department of Livingston Development Corporation. He holds the post of foreman forester.

He is married and the father of five children, all of whom have now left home. He and his wife live at 4, Broomyknowe Drive, Deans, Livingston, a house owned by Livingston Development Corporation.

He is known to be honest and responsible, and not the sort of person to invent a tale or play a practical joke. In fact he is of a phlegmatic disposition and has reacted to his experience as if it were merely a traffic accident. He does not appear to have been changed by the experience. Apart from having heard about 'flying saucers' and UFOs, he had no interest in the subject. Now he believes that he did see a spacecraft and that two robots attempted to abduct him. This belief does not seem to disturb him; he even carries a camera now whenever he visits the site of the incident so that if the 'craft' appears again he may photograph it.

He drinks very little alcohol, and none during working hours. He does smoke cigarettes. He describes his health as good, although he is troubled by poor appetite which he attributes to a liver condition. He was a heavy drinker in the past. In 1965 he suffered viral meningitis, from which he made a good recovery, and in 1977 he was hospitalized with mild hepatitis. He has had two operations, a herniorrhaphy, and an operation on his neck for cervical spondylosis. He has no history of head injury, and does not normally suffer from headaches, dizziness or blackouts. He does suffer from angina and high blood pressure, but at the time of the incident was taking no medication for this condition. He weighs 73 kg and is 1.8 metres tall. His hearing is good and he needs spectacles only for reading.

On the day of the encounter he was wearing a wrist-watch, and carrying, in his left trouser pocket, a leather purse containing some coins, and in his right trouser pocket, a penknife.

THE ENCOUNTER

6) The incident occurred on the morning of Friday, November 9th, 1979. Robert Taylor normally takes a break from his work shortly before ten o'clock. Thus he left his house at 10.00 GMT that morning driving his pick-up truck. He was going to inspect young forest plantations near the M8 motorway. The truck could not be taken all the way and he had to leave it along a track. With his dog he then walked the rest of the way. At about 10.15 GMT he rounded a corner in the forest track and was confronted by the most amazing sight. Figure 3 illustrates the objects which he saw, and Figure 1 shows the layout of the clearing in which the objects sat. Robert was standing at the point marked 'A' when he first saw the UFO.

At first the small 'mines' were not visible. The large dome-shaped object was hovering stationary above the ground, but not very much above it. There was neither visible rotation nor audible sound. The colour was uniformly dark grey with a texture similar to that of emery paper¹. The surface of the object did not retain this appearance all the time; part of the surface

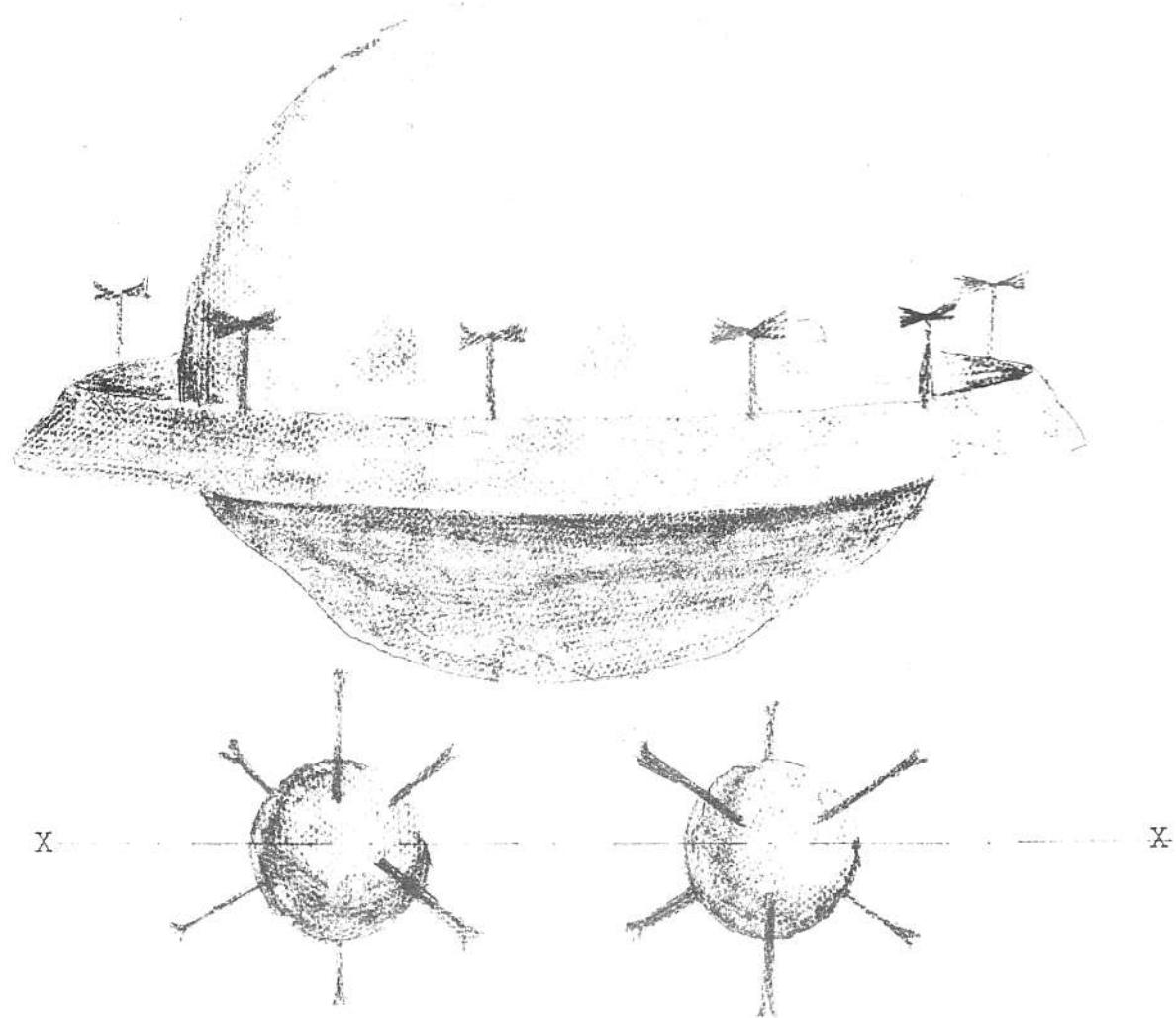


Figure 3: The appearance of the UFO and 'mines', as described by the witness, but drawn by others. X-X indicates the axis of rotation of the 'mines'.

periodically underwent a change, the change occurring first in one place and then in another. Robert received the impression that it was attempting to camouflage itself. The change involved the loss of the texture described above, and its replacement by a surface that was smooth and shiny. Robert cannot be certain whether it was, as he first reported, transparent, or whether it was reflective.

The object was about 6 metres in diameter, and stood about 4 m high. Its upper part, about 2.5 m high was a hemispherical dome. It appeared to be mounted on an equatorial flange or rim, like the brim of a hat. Robert is not so sure of the shape of the part under the flange; it was darker or in shadow. Protruding from the upper edge of the flange were what appeared to be regularly spaced stems surmounted by what appeared to be 'propellers' or 'bow ties'. These appendages did not move or revolve. Just above the flange on the surface of the upper dome were regularly spaced circular patches darker in tone than the general surface. No other features were visible.

Not many seconds after first seeing this object, Robert was further amazed to see two smaller spiked spheres rush towards him. They came either from behind, under or inside the large object; they moved too fast for him to be sure of their origin. The colour and texture of these spheres were identical to those of the large object. The diameter of the spheres is uncertain, but may lie in the range 0.5 m to 1 m. They seemed to roll forwards on a horizontal axis with only the ends of the spikes touching the ground. Because the spikes were moving Robert cannot be certain of their exact number, distribution around the spheres or their shape. But he does recall that when each spike or leg touched the grass it made a sucking or plopping noise. Later he agreed that the noise could be simulated by touching grass with the end of a vacuum cleaner tube. The ends of the spikes may have widened a little, but Robert cannot be sure.

After racing towards him, each sphere stopped at his side, one either side, and attached one spike or leg to his trousers just below the pockets. Immediately he felt himself being pulled forward, that is towards the larger object. The spheres were tugging him by his trousers! He claims that his feet (in Wellington boots!) were dragging on the ground as he resisted being moved. As the spheres reached him he was overwhelmed by an acrid choking smell. Struggling for breath and trying to resist the pull of the spheres, he lost consciousness, and fell forwards at the point marked 'B' in Figure 1.

THE JOURNEY BACK HOME

7) Robert believes that, as he regained consciousness, he heard a swooshing noise. But, when he opened his eyes, none of the UFOs could be seen. Only his dog was with him; she had been exploring the woods at the time of the encounter, and now was racing around him barking wildly. When he tried to speak to the dog, to calm her, he found that he had lost his voice. He also found that when he tried to stand up his legs would not support him. So he crawled on his hands and knees for about 90 metres back up the track down which he had previously walked. After that he managed to stand, and walked unsteadily the remaining 430 m to where the truck was parked. There he tried to contact his headquarters via a two-way radio, but he still could not speak. He then attempted to reverse the truck, but in so doing ran it off the track into soft ground where it became stuck. Consequently he had to walk back home, a distance of about 1870 m via a short-cut across fields and woods. His voice returned on the journey home,

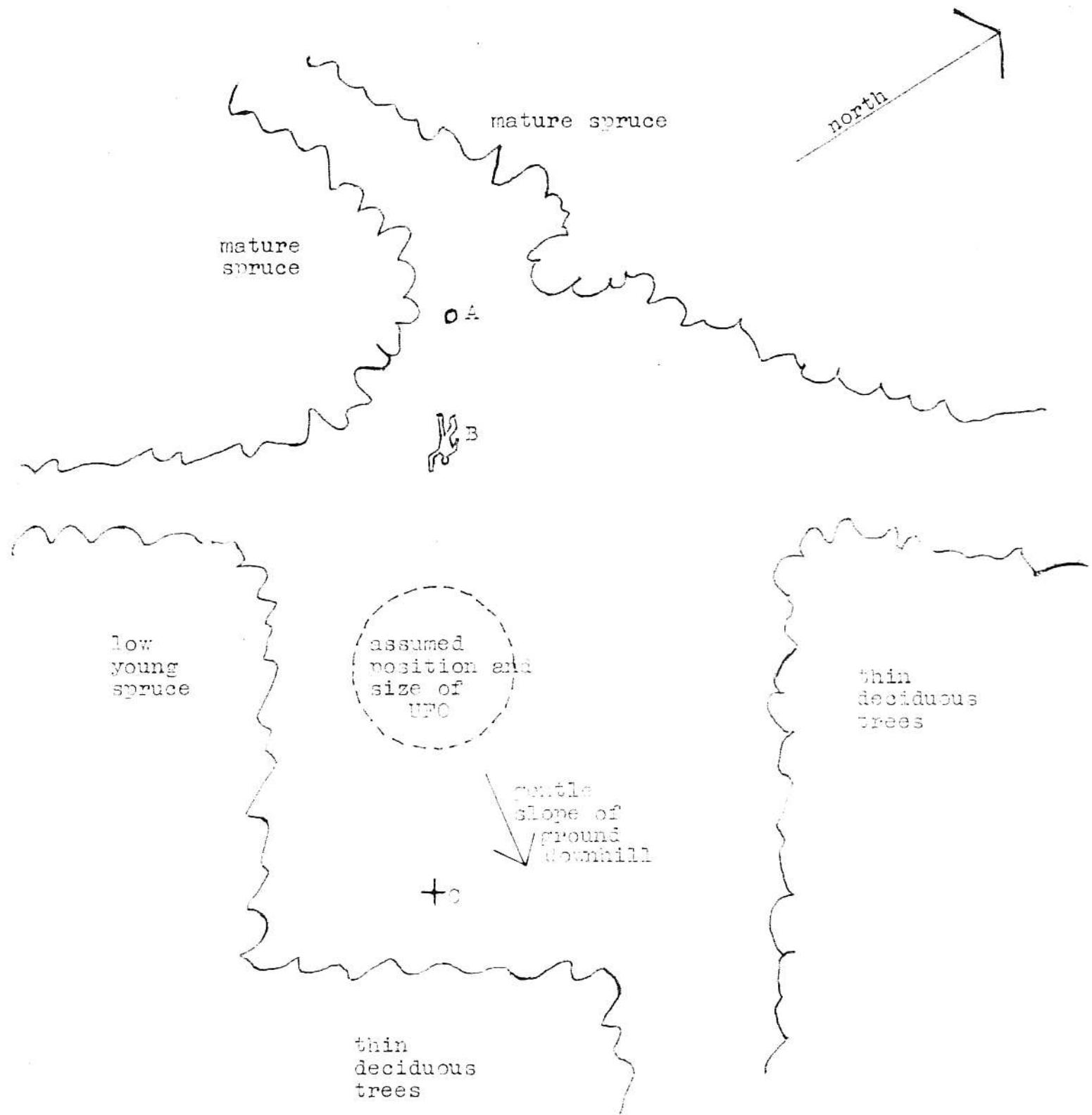
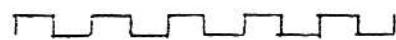


Figure 1: Plan of site and surrounding area

'C' = site of control soil sample

 scale in metres

where he arrived about 11.15 GMT. He was very thirsty and suffering from a frontal headache, which lasted for several hours. His thirst lasted for about two days. He could still taste the smell in his mouth, he had a burning pain on his chin and felt sick. His wrist-watch was still functioning, and it has functioned since.

THE NEWS SPREADS

8) When she saw the state he was in, and heard him mutter that he had been attacked, his wife wanted to call the police. He restrained her and explained the nature of the incident. After this he did allow her to call his supervisor and head of the Forestry Department, Malcolm Drummond. This she did about 11.20 GMT. Meanwhile Robert removed his clothes and took a bath.

On hearing the news, Malcolm Drummond telephoned a local doctor and asked him to meet him at the Taylor house. Arriving about 11.30 GMT, Mr. Drummond immediately interviewed Robert in his bath. Shortly after, Dr. Adams of Blackburn Health Centre arrived to examine Robert. Apart from a graze on his chin and others on the outer aspects of each thigh, there appeared to be nothing wrong with Robert. There was no evidence of head injury or neurological disorder. Examination of the blood pressure, the fundi and the nervous system did not reveal any abnormalities. (See Dr. Adams' statement - Appendix 7). The doctor ordered an ambulance to take Robert to nearby Bangour General Hospital for a skull X-ray.

Persuaded by Robert that he had been attacked by some 'creatures' from a 'spaceship', and consequently that there ought to be some evidence of the 'landing' in the clearing, Mr. Drummond radioed for some of his men to meet him at the site, and immediately drove there himself. The doctor remained with Mrs. Taylor, who, meanwhile, had examined Robert's clothing to find that there were two tears in the trousers, one just below each pocket. There was also an S-shaped hole in one leg of the long underpants.

Finding the abandoned truck, but unable to locate the UFO site, Malcolm Drummond returned to collect Robert, who by now was dressed again and feeling better. Robert then accompanied Mr. Drummond, and other employees of the Forestry Department, to the site of the encounter, where they found the marks on the ground. On Mr. Drummond's orders, the site of the marks was fenced off by the Forestry Department early that afternoon.

Back home Robert awaited the ambulance, which arrived about 13.00 GMT to take him and his wife to hospital. There they were kept waiting for several hours without attention, until, in exasperation, Robert discharged himself. He was convinced that there was nothing wrong with him, and he and his wife were anxious to return home. Later they set out on a visit to relatives in England; the visit had been planned some time beforehand and was not a deliberate attempt to avoid the press. But the decision to proceed with the visit was motivated by a desire to avoid the imminent publicity. They did not return until the Sunday evening.

After seeing the marks, Malcolm Drummond informed the police of the incident. They arrived on site that afternoon, to take photographs and measurements and to search the area. Later in the week they interviewed Robert and took away his clothing for examination.



Figure 6 (above):
Photograph of witness
standing where he first saw
UFO, showing the open space
where the incident occurred.
The site is fenced off.



Figure 7 (left):
Photograph of the witness
standing at the point
where he collapsed.

Both photographs by
Steuart Campbell
1979 Dec 06.

So many people, especially the staff of the Forestry Department, now knew of the incident, that it was inevitable that the press would be informed. It appears that the local Livingston Post was the first to receive the news, although as a weekly paper they could not use it immediately. They and/or someone else informed The Scotsman and the Evening News in Edinburgh, and The Glasgow Herald in Glasgow. All these papers carried accounts the following day, and all Britain heard of the incident through The Sunday Express (see Appendix 10).

THE GROUND MARKINGS

9) The ground marks (see Figure 2) were of two types. Firstly there were two parallel ladder-like 'tracks' each about 2.5 m long and the same distance apart. Each 'rung' of the ladder (see Figure 4) was 2 or 3 cm wide and deep, and about 30 cm long, and the area of grass between each 'rung' was evenly flattened, but not as deeply as the 'rungs'. Although the 'tracks' appeared to be impressions made by a heavy object, the indentations were in the grass only; the ground beneath the grass did not appear to have been indented or crushed at all. I was able to confirm this later when the grass had been flattened by snow and had died with the onset of winter. The ground where the 'tracks' had been did not show any sign of the markings that had been visible in the grass itself. I examined the 'rung' indentations closely and found that individual blades of grass were bent around the square shape of the 'rung'. After 24 hours they seemed to have no inclination to lose the shape into which they had been fashioned. The flattened grass was not discoloured in any way.

Secondly there were 40 holes surrounding the 'tracks', as shown in Figure 2. These holes all exposed fresh earth and were tapered from a maximum width of about 10 cm; none was more than about 10 cm deep. All were at an angle of about 30° to the horizontal. A remarkable feature was the fact that the direction of the angle of inclination was consistent, that is to say each hole seemed to be angled in the direction of the adjacent holes. Two distinct but related sets of holes can be seen on the diagram, although this was not obvious from the site inspection. It is clear that each ring of holes circles one of the 'tracks', and that while one ring proceeds clockwise the other proceeds anticlockwise (of course one cannot tell which is which). In some cases, blades of grass surrounding the edge of a hole were sheared off; see Figure 5. The holes were not triangular, as reported in the press: they were roughly circular. They did not bear the imprint of any artifact or tool.

None of the grass was burned or scorched or withered; fresh grass growing on the site in 1980 seemed quite normal and showed no sign of the incident. The grass and the ground beneath it were damp; in fact overnight (Nov 09/10) there had been a ground frost³ which had produced hoar frost⁴ on the grass. This hoar frost accounts for the light tone of Alistair Sutherland's photographs of the grass. The frost had thawed by the time I arrived at the site to take my own photographs.

THE DAMAGE TO CLOTHING

10) Naturally much of Robert's outer clothing became dirty on his homeward journey, but interest centres on the only anomalous damage, the tears in his trousers and a hole in his underpants (long johns).

The trousers are standard British police issue made of navy blue serge.

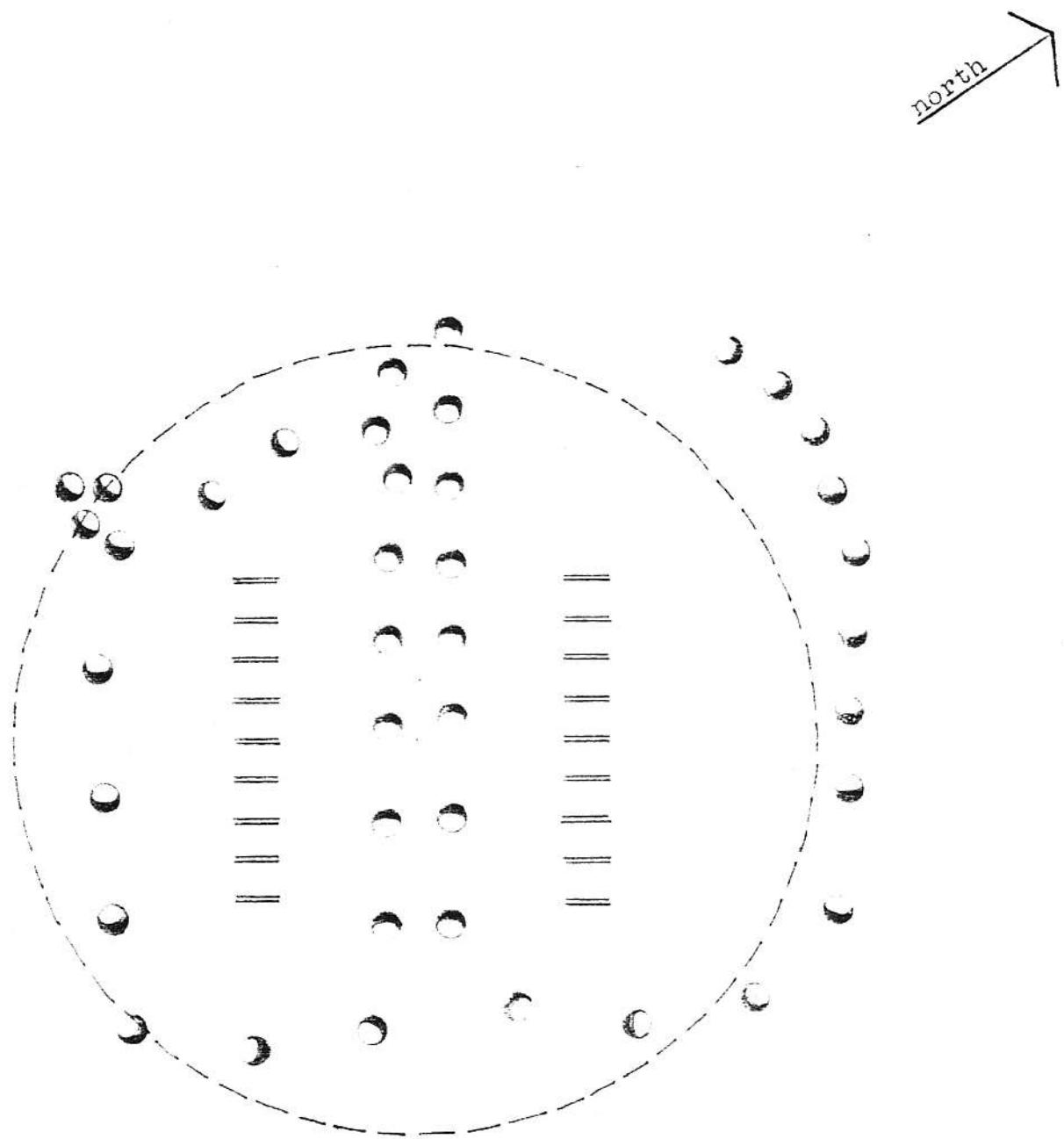


Figure 2: Plan of site markings from Police measurements.

○ shading indicates top side of angled holes.
6 m diameter circle is assumed position of UFO as shown on Figure 1.

The police drawing could not be used because it was to an Imperial scale, showed north in the wrong direction, and contained other drafting anomalies.

[Scale bar] scale in metres

Figures 8 and 9 show the tears on each leg of the trousers. The right leg tear is about 65 cm up from the bottom of the leg, while the left leg tear is about 76 cm up. A small hole appears to be associated with each tear, the hole on the right leg matching a hole through the truncheon pocket. There are also other anomalous holes through one side of the truncheon pocket. The large tears did not exist before the incident, and it seems unlikely that the truncheon pocket could have been damaged in the ordinary course of events.

The police forensic scientist examined the trousers under his microscope. See Appendix 2 for forensic report. This revealed that neither the tears nor the holes were caused by burning; the tears at least were caused by tension on the fabric and were not the result of cutting. He noted that the tears were not consistent with catching the fabric on a nail; they were consistent with a small area of the fabric having been tugged rapidly upwards (i.e. towards the head of the person wearing the trousers).

He suggested that such damage could probably be simulated by grabbing hold of the material with pincers⁵; in other words the tearing mechanism was a few centimetres across rather than a point like a nail.

No-one seems to have asked the police scientist if the dog could have torn the trousers, although he did not suggest it. Robert states that the dog had never torn fabric before and he considered it very unlikely that the tears could have been caused in this manner.

The scientist's examination also revealed that a powder similar to maize starch was discovered on the trousers at the bottom of the legs and around the hip and waist region. This fact puzzled me until I discovered that the trousers had been brought to police headquarters in a plastic shopping bag previously used by Mrs. Taylor for carrying groceries. It is not actually established but it is possible, that the bag had previously held packets of flour (which tend to leak slightly) and that some of the flour grains (only identifiable as starch under the microscope) became transferred to the trousers. If, as seems likely, the trousers were folded such that the ends of the legs were adjacent to the waist band, then, as was discovered, only these parts of the trousers would be contaminated by the flour likely to be lying at the bottom of the bag if the trousers were put into the bag with the waist band and leg ends at the bottom. It would appear that the CID Identification Branch of Lothian and Borders Police is not permitted to take samples of items directly; items are brought to them for identification and analysis. Consequently the forensic scientists report on what they are given and cannot discriminate between the state of an article immediately after an incident and the state of that article when they receive it.

The underpants were made of knitted cotton. The S-shaped tear on the outer aspect of the left leg was approximately coincident with the tear in the outer aspect of the left trouser leg. The tear was about 4 cm long.

IDENTIFICATION OF THE SMELL

11) Robert likened the smell to that of burning brake linings. Later he agreed that it was also similar to the smell obtained by banging two rocks together, or that generated by a grindstone.

A leading brake lining manufacturer states that the characteristic smell of burning linings is due to the release of free phenol/cresols/xylenols (among other organic compounds). Most brake composites are based on thermosetting phenol/formaldehyde polymers of one type or another. The Institute of Geological Sciences advises that banging rocks together can release minor quantities of sulphurous gases, commonly SO₂.

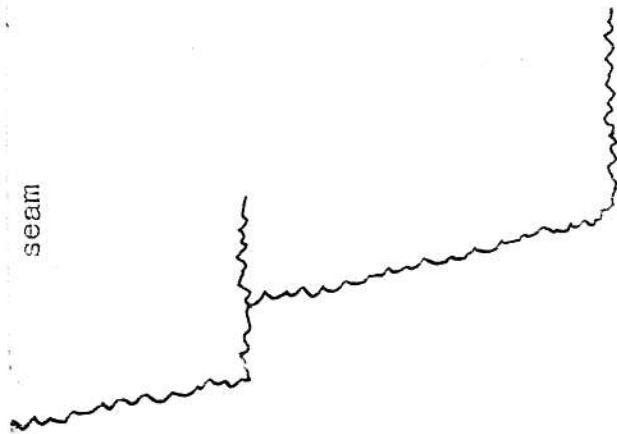


Figure 8:
Diagram
of tears to outside
of left leg of
trousers.

scale in centimetres

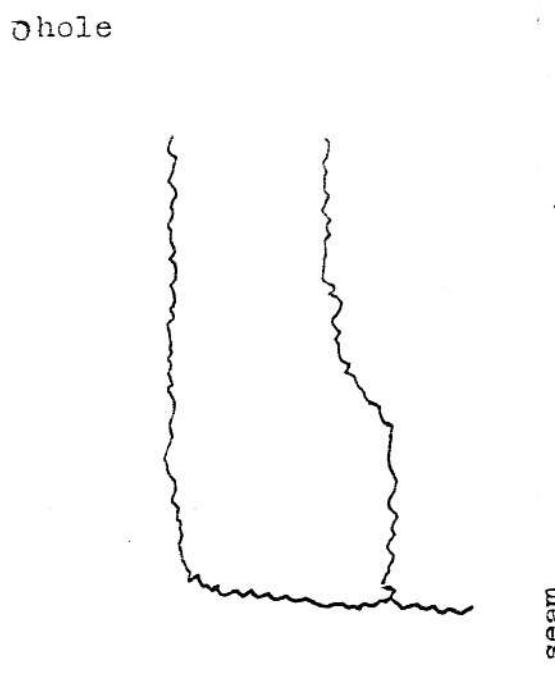


Figure 9:
Diagram
of tears to outside
of right leg of
trousers.

scale in centimetres

An attempt at identification was made by asking Robert to sniff four prepared samples of gas. The samples were ozone (O_3), hydrogen sulphide (H_2S), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) and sulphur dioxide (SO_2). Although he did not think that any one of them was identical to the smell at the close encounter, Robert did identify a gas or gases which could have been responsible (sulphur dioxide).

Clearly the smell may have been a complex cocktail of many different gases, which it will be impossible to reproduce without some idea of the causative mechanism. Sensations of smell are not necessarily objective and can be the result of stimulation of the appropriate areas of the brain. See page 32.

EXAMINATION OF THE SOIL

12) Half of each soil sample was subjected to examination by the X-ray fluorescence technique. The analysis found that both samples contained the following elements:

Group 1 (major elements) : silicon, aluminium, oxygen, titanium, iron, manganese, magnesium, sodium, potassium.

Group 2 (minor elements): yttrium, rubidium, thorium, strontium, lead, zinc, gallium, copper, nickel, chromium, barium.

In the sample from one of the holes made by the UFO there was a higher concentration of manganese, rubidium and lead, but it is not known whether this difference is within expected local variations. Exact percentages of each element are not available from this technique, which is a qualitative and not quantitative one.

The unused half of each soil sample was sent to BUFORA's Trace Analysis Team.

The following is a precis of the Report of the Physical Data Section of BUFORA to avoid repetition of information already presented.

Precis of Report from Physical Data Section of BUFORA

The soil samples received from the Livingston site arrived in a sorry state. They had been sent through the post in small glass laboratory containers with insufficient packing. As a result of this treatment the vial containing the sample from the alleged UFO markings had become broken and the contents leaked into the surrounding packaging.

Thus the samples were not suitable for detailed analysis as the suspect sample was heavily contaminated with large and very fine particles of broken glass and may have been contaminated by contact with the packaging.

Additionally, the extended delay between collection and arrival at Physical Data Section may have been the cause of the samples appearing partially dehydrated. This partial dehydration could be a serious issue as any volatile traces would, of course, have already been lost. Nevertheless a limited number of examinations were carried out on the samples received.

Tom Straiton had previously checked the samples of gross residual radioactivity, checking we believe for both alpha-, beta- and gamma emission. During the course of our examination we looked for low energy beta-emitting particles by liquid scintillation counting. Neither of the samples showed any increase

over the background reading in the low energy part of the beta spectrum. Specifically, activity from Tritium (Hydrogen-3), Carbon-14 and Phosphorus-32 was looked for. The moisture content of both samples was examined by heating samples of both in a hot air oven at 200 degrees C. for 45 minutes. By this method it appeared that both had a very low moisture content, of the order of 3%. This confirmed our earlier thought that the samples had been dried, this being due to human action, not the effects of the UFO.

Both samples contained reducing substances and both contained phosphate, the sample from the UFO site possibly containing slightly more than the other. Again we are left with the problem that we do not know what the local variations in soil are! When shaken vigorously in water using a mechanical mixer and centrifuged, both samples are able to reduce the pH of distilled water slightly, from pH 5 to pH 4.5. This is not considered to be significant.

Due to the collection problem it was not worth attempting any microbiological studies on the samples. Indeed if there had at one time been any difference in microbial activity all the microbes would have been killed by the dehydration.

On the basis of the limited number of examinations it has been possible to undertake up till now we are unable to find any evidence which can act to enhance or detract from the witness story on the basis of the samples presented to us.

METEOROLOGICAL DATA

13) Location of met. point	Edinburgh Airport (Turnhouse) 13 km to the east.
time of readings	1000 GMT (1979 Nov 09)
temperature	3°C }
dew point	2°C }
cloud cover	3/8
cloud type	strato-cumulus and cumulus
height to base	3/8 at 1350 m; 1/8 at 540 m.
past weather	sleet shower in past hour
visibility	20 km
pressure	equivalent of 1006.4 mb at sea level
wind	5 knots (2.5 m/s) from 260° (WSW)

ANALYSIS OF DATA AND INFERENCES

14) How long was Robert unconscious?

From the assumed initial and final terminal times we can calculate how long Robert was unconscious if we know the duration of each of the morning's events. It is taken that Robert encountered the UFO at 1015 (15 minutes after leaving his house), and that he re-entered the house at 1115. Of these 60 minutes the following approximate allocations can be made:

Crawling	5 mins.
walking	8
radio	2
backing truck	3
walking home 1870 m	22
total	40 mins.

This leaves 20 minutes unaccounted for and it may be assumed therefore that Robert was unconscious for about 20 minutes.

15) Could Robert have torn his clothes on the journey home?

It is natural to ask whether the tears in the trousers and in the underpants (and perhaps also the grazes on his body) were caused on the journey home across the fields and through woods. While walking over this route I was looking particularly for any place where this could have happened, particularly anywhere that Robert might have had to jump downwards, so causing the upward tears.

At no point did Robert have to climb or jump. After following the forest track, the route crosses an open field, then through an open gateway across the corner of another field, which leads, without a gate, into the Town footpath system. From there footpaths could be followed to Robert's house. (See Fig.10) Nowhere did Robert have to struggle through undergrowth. The route of the journey home offered no explanation for the damage to clothing. The witness's trousers are still under study, and the findings of the Physical Data Section, so far are in agreement with those of the Police.

16) Could the ground marks have been made by equipment lying in the grass?

The 'track' marks did resemble the pattern produced by say a duck-board⁶ lying upside down for some time in grass, particularly growing grass. But such a board usually discolours the grass by obscuring light; no discolouration was evident in this case. Robert assured me that he had seen no equipment lying in the area prior to the encounter. It was established that the local Water Board had been laying pipes within 100 m of the site, but their pipes and equipment had not been left on the encounter site.

17) Could the ground marks have been made by mechanical equipment or machinery?

The forest tracks are used occasionally for vehicle access, although it is understood that they had not been so used in the area for about two weeks. The corner at which Robert first saw the UFO did bear evidence that some vehicle had experienced wheel-slip as it turned the corner, but the marks were not fresh.

••••• Robert's route home

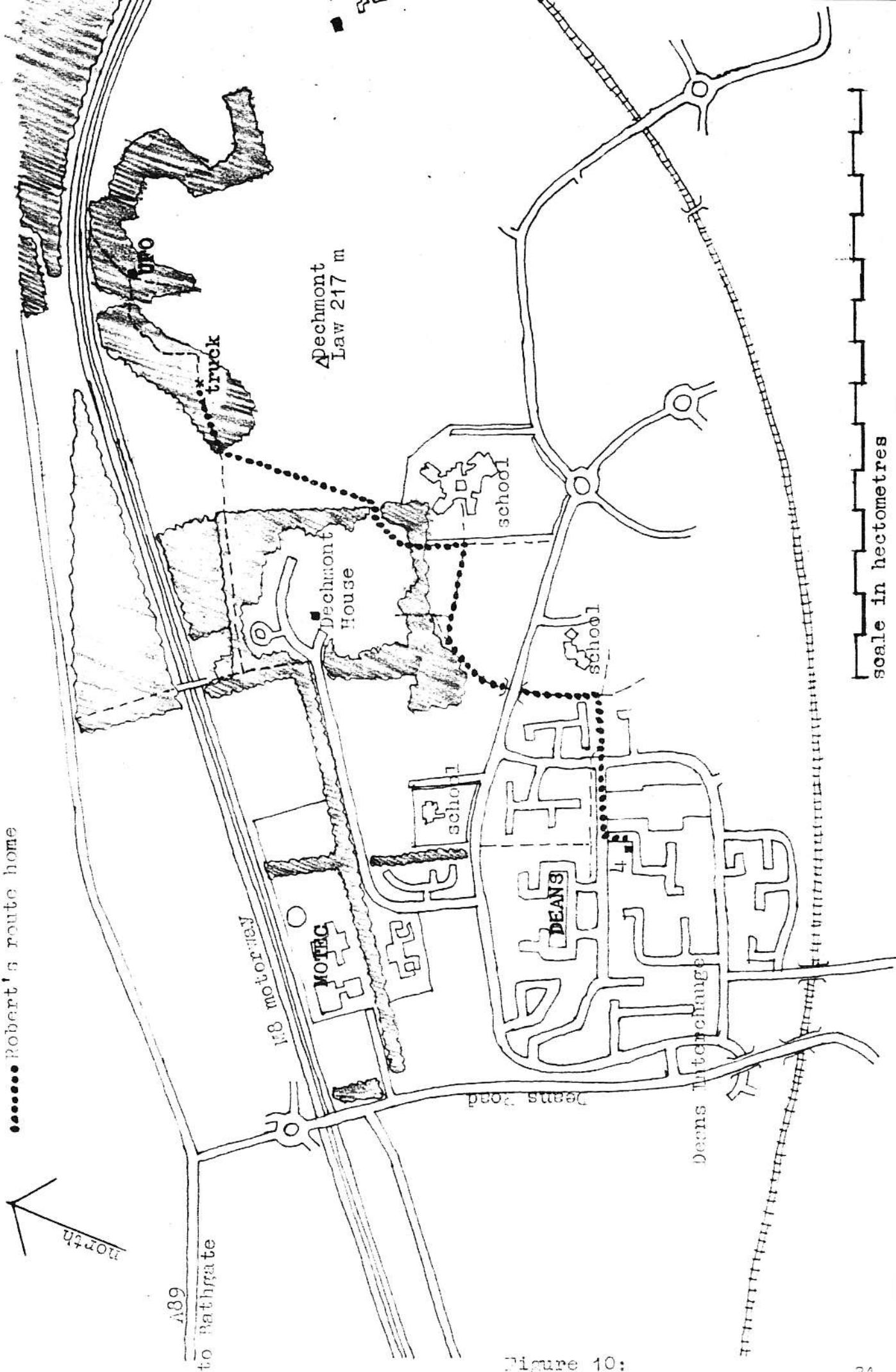


Figure 10:
Plan of Deans and UFO site.

In any case the anomalous marks were isolated from the forest track; if they were made by a tracked vehicle they would have led from and to the track. The spacing of the 'rings' of the anomalous tracks is wider than that found on tracked vehicles, and nor is the shape of track indentations consistent with that of normal tracks. A tracked vehicle would certainly have left indentations, not only in the grass, but in the ground under the grass. It might be argued that the marks are those left by a helicopter, but helicopters do not have tracked landing gear. Police enquiries established that no-one knew of any helicopter flying in the Livingston area on the day of the encounter, or the previous day.

The holes certainly could have been made by someone wielding a pick, and pulling on the pick when it was in the ground. But some sign of the tool should have been evident in the fresh soil; no such sign was discerned. None of the exposed soil seemed to have been compressed in any way; the ground was merely opened.



Figure 15:
Some of the holes
photographed by
Steuart Campbell
on 1979 Nov 10.



Figure 4:
Photograph of the
'track' marks
taken by Alistair
Sutherland on
1979 Nov 10.
Scale indicates
30 cm. (North
direction is
incorrect)



Figure 5:
Photograph of one
of the holes taken
by Alistair Sutherland
on 1979 Nov 10. Scale
indicates 15 cm.



Figure 16:
Photograph of one
of the holes taken
by Alistair Sutherland
on 1979 Nov 10.

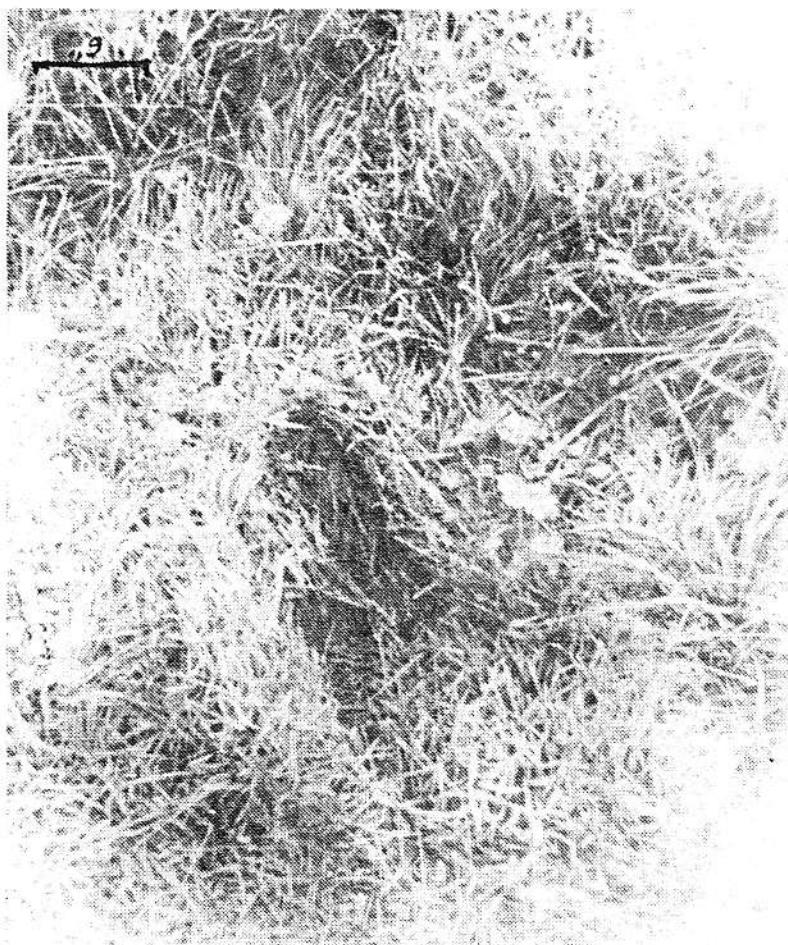


Figure 17:
Photograph of one
of the holes taken
by Alistair Sutherland
on 1979 Nov 10.



Figure 13: The site of the encounter on Saturday 1979 Nov 10. Note vehicle tracks in foreground. (Photo by Steuart Campbell)



Figure 14: The 'track' marks photographed by Steuart Campbell on Saturday 1979 Nov 10. The 'track' runs horizontally across centre of picture. One of the holes is in the foreground.

18) Comment on the illustrations of the UFOs (Figure 3)

Robert Taylor was not able to produce an adequate drawing of what he saw and it was necessary for others to produce an illustration. The first attempt was made by David Hammond, then a student architect and Robert's youngest daughter's fiancé (now a qualified architect and Robert's son-in-law). His sketch has been used as a basis for all subsequent illustrations. David's original sketch showed the central UFO standing on four slender legs, one leg at each end of the 'track' marks. These legs must have been the result of a misunderstanding; Robert has strenuously denied that he saw any legs, or indeed that the object was sitting on the ground. Neither did the original sketch show any underside to the large object. Corrections have therefore been made to my own illustration (seen in Figure 3), and Robert has agreed that, as well as he can remember, this does show what he saw.

Allowance should be made for the short time which the objects were in Robert's sight, his understandable confusion at the time, and the inability of artists to see what he saw. The sketch can however be taken as giving a general impression of what he saw, and should not be taken too literally.

19) Hypnotism

In many close encounter cases, witnesses have subsequently experienced dreams that appear to be related to their encounter. Often it is suggested that these dreams are fragments of unconscious memories of part of their encounter experience, and it is proposed that hypnotism can uncover these memories. The application of this hypnotic technique in such cases has resulted in some fantastic stories. Whether or not these stories are true is quite another matter.

In this case the witness has not been troubled by dreams related to the encounter. Nevertheless, and despite the evident fact that a witness can hardly have any memory of what happened while he was unconscious, it has been suggested that hypnosis might produce additional data in this case. Indeed, very soon after the encounter, hypnotism was suggested to the witness, although not by me.

However, the witness has always refused to undergo hypnotism. Apparently this was merely because he did not want to bother with it and did not feel that it would be useful.

But during April 1980 he was persuaded to go to Edinburgh to discuss the question of hypnotism with a well-known Edinburgh stage hypnotist. He was assured that he would not be hypnotized without his agreement.

After discussion of the encounter and hypnotism in general, he became aware that he had been hypnotized. Indeed, a tape recording had been made during the hypnotism. Naturally he was annoyed, and asked what had been revealed. Apparently he told no more of the encounter under hypnosis than he had when conscious. No additional data had been obtained, and no more has been heard from the hypnotist on this matter.

It may be presumed that if the witness had revealed sensational details under hypnosis we would have heard about them by now. Naturally, Robert is even less inclined now to agree to hypnosis.

20) False reports

Clearly press reports of 'creatures' were exaggerated. Even the witness

admits that the two objects which approached him looked like robots. There is absolutely no evidence that alien creatures were involved, although of course that is not the same as saying that aliens were not involved.

The Sunday Mail newspaper (see Appendix 10) contains a statement that the witness had an accident with his tractor just before the incident. The implication is that as a result he suffered concussion leading to some sort of hallucination. I ascertained that the witness does not drive a tractor (in fact no tractor was in the area at the time) and had no accident that morning, apart from the encounter itself of course!

A rumour circulated in Livingston to the effect that the witness had suffered severe burns as a result of his encounter. Clearly this rumour resulted from the fact that Bangour General Hospital has a major burn unit serving central Scotland. But the witness suffered no burns and had only attended the casualty department.

The weekend following the encounter a Fife couple, David Somerville (45) and his wife Patricia (44) of St. Kilda Crescent, Kirkcaldy, disappeared on a journey from friends in Falkirk to their home. It was put to me that their disappearance was in some way connected with the UFO incident. A few weeks later, after an intense police search, this unfortunate couple were found drowned in their car in Kirkcaldy harbour, where they had presumably fallen on the night they disappeared. No-one knows why they drove into the harbour, but it could have been an accident. Their route from Falkirk to Kirkcaldy did not lie anywhere near Livingston, their disappearance took place a week after the encounter, and no reason has been found to associate the two events.

21) Was the report true?

It is natural that some should question the objectivity of the report, implying that the witness either invented it or suffered an hallucination. Where there is only one witness to a close encounter the reliability of the report is naturally suspect. Rarely is there any evidence that the report is true. But in this case there were anomalous marks on the ground just where the witness claims to have seen the object(s). This is unusual. To suggest that the witness invented the report is to suggest also that he (or someone else yet unknown to us) made the ground marks! Of course this is possible; but is it likely? To suggest that the witness suffered an hallucination is to leave a great question regarding the cause of the marks.

The character and reputation of the witness are not those of a hoaxter or liar. No motive has been found for such a course, and the witness himself did not seek any publicity. He was against calling the police and certainly did not tell the Press of the incident. Although he has tolerated it, he has not welcomed the publicity which he received subsequently. He has not gained very much financially. These are not the actions of a hoaxter or fraud. No evidence has been found that he (or any other person) made the ground marks. It appears that we must rule out hoax or fraud.

The hypothesis that he suffered an hallucination may be examined, although it offers no explanation for the ground marks. Pat Hannaford has suggested an isolated fit of temporal lobe epilepsy. This would start with an aura lasting several seconds or minutes. This aura commonly involves bizarre and varied hallucinations, particularly visual and olfactory, and old memories may intrude into consciousness. Hallucinations of smell are powerful and unpleasant. Loss of consciousness may then occur as the fit becomes generalized, and deep sleep

follows. Afterwards there may be confusion, drowsiness, headache, aching limbs and a period of altered consciousness. Such a grand mal fit might be caused by:

- 1 damage to the temporal lobe as a late effect of viral meningitis,
- 2 impaired blood supply due to cerebrovascular disease, a transient ischaemic attack or a cardiac arrhythmia,
- 3 a space-occupying lesion in the brain;

(other less likely causes are the onset of idiopathic epilepsy or some unknown outside agency)

Hannaford notes that such a fit can occur at any age. If an epileptic fit was involved, perhaps producing hallucinations, this does not explain the ground markings, which indicate the presence of an objective stimulus. Nor can the trousers have been torn by rolling on the grass in an epileptic fit. It should also be noted that the witness did not report the intrusion of any old memories, and he experienced no prodromal symptoms. Nor, if there was a visual hallucination, can it be claimed that the character of the hallucination is one likely to have been stored in the witness's memory.

Hallucination may also have an organic or a psychological cause; no attempt has been made to eliminate these causes in this case, but they do seem unlikely.

It would appear that the witness's account should be accepted as true.

22) What was the cause of the ground marks?

The fact that the ground beneath the ground 'track' marks was not itself indented is consistent with the witness's testimony that the object was hovering just above the ground. There is no evidence that any object rested on the ground, and no calculations can be made regarding its mass. The witness saw no legs and it is inappropriate to suggest that the 40 holes were made by legs. The holes were irregular in position, at an angle inconsistent with vertical legs and did not display any compression of the soil. The holes were simply 'opened' ground similar, although on a smaller scale, to that caused by ground lightning strikes.

The irregular disposition of the rings of holes may be explained by the fact that the ground slopes gently to the east and north-east. The holes are nearer the centre on the higher side and further from the centre on the lower side. It may be presumed that on perfectly flat ground the rings of holes would have been symmetrical and more nearly circular on the outside. From this it may be concluded that the object was hovering in a horizontal mode despite the slope of the ground. The irregularity of the rings of holes may be taken as further evidence that the object was not resting on the ground.

It may be that the marks were caused by the 'mines'. It is remarkable that there were two 'mines', two 'tracks' and two rings of holes! This can hardly be coincidental, and does point to some relationship between the 'mines' and the ground marks. Insofar as the rings of holes each surround the 'track' marks, there is a relationship between the two types of mark. But there is no evidence that the 'mines' made any holes when they approached the witness.

It is possible that all the marks were caused by electromagnetic effects. Besides the possibility that the holes were caused by miniature lightning strikes (indicating a high potential difference between the object and the

ground), the two circuits of holes are reminiscent of the circulation of the magnetic field in a solenoid. In addition, the creation of a regular pattern in dielectric materials (such as grass) is a feature of strong electromagnetic fields. This might explain how the grass came to be shaped without sign of compression.

23) How were the trousers torn?

We have little alternative but to accept the witness's evidence that the two 'mines' attached themselves to his trousers. The positions of the tears are consistent with the account and that they were caused by the 'mines'. The broad ends of the 'legs' of the 'mines' are consistent with the need for a broad attachment. If these 'legs' were still attached to the trousers when the witness collapsed, and if they were still tugging in the direction of the large 'craft', then it is consistent that the tears should be upwards towards the head of the witness. Such a direction would be horizontal, towards the UFO. Thus we may conclude that after the collapse of the witness, the 'mines' continued to pull. His prone body offered greater resistance than when he was standing, and they must have torn the trousers on breaking free. This tells us that whatever means was used to make the attachment, it was not released when resistance increased. Attachment may have been mechanical (as with pincers) or by means of a vacuum. The sucking noise reported by the witness is consistent with the use of a vacuum. This suggests that the 'mines' themselves were at below atmospheric pressure. How such a vacuum could cause a skin graze is not known.

24) Why did the witness lose consciousness?

Hannaford notes that there are two major causes of a sudden and isolated period of loss of consciousness, in the context of general good health. One is an electrical discharge within the brain (an epileptic fit as discussed above). The other is impairment or interruption of the blood supply to the brain.

Vascular causes of loss of consciousness are the vasovagal attack (simple faint), the transient ischaemic attack due to atherosclerotic disease of arteries, cerebral thrombosis and embolism (blockage or spasm of arteries in the brain), and haemorrhage from blood vessels in or around the brain which may be caused by abnormalities of the blood vessels, high pressure or most commonly atherosclerotic disease (hardening of the arteries) and cardiac arrhythmias (irregularity of the heartbeat).

In this case a vasovagal attack is most unlikely, because of the suddenness of the onset, the lack of predromal symptoms such as sweating, dizziness or nausea, and the length of the period of unconsciousness. A cerebrovascular accident is unlikely in view of the lack of evidence of subsequent neurological damage and the rapid recovery. A transient ischaemic attack, which is caused by a transient impairment of the blood supply due to spasm or minor blockage of the blood supply is a possibility, but usually causes focal neurological signs such as one-sided weakness. A cardiac arrhythmia producing sudden loss of blood supply is also a possibility. Both these occur without warning and may cause varying periods of unconsciousness, usually short.

Whatever the cause, it must account, not only for a period of approximately 20 minutes unconsciousness, but a frontal headache, a very dry throat, and temporary paralysis of the vocal chords and the legs. These symptoms do not appear to be consistent with any of the causes listed above, and we must return to the epileptic theory. It is true that Robert Taylor's condition does

correspond most closely with a complex partial epileptic attack. Consistent with such an attack are the period of unconsciousness (possibly including sleep), the headache and the paralysis. His previous meningitis is relevant in that it would have damaged the lining of his brain so rendering him susceptible to such an attack. Most significant of all is the smell which Robert reported. Such strong and unpleasant smells are often reported during the preliminary aura of an epileptic attack. His report of this indicates that he was indeed entering an attack, which quickly led to complete unconsciousness. However, even if unconsciousness was the result of an epileptic fit, we are still seeking the cause of the attack. Robert is not an epileptic; he had never before suffered such an attack, and has not suffered one since. We must conclude that the attack was caused by the unusual circumstances, but the exact agency has not yet been determined.

25) Was the object a secret man-made craft?

Rumour reached me that the object was a secret research vehicle from an aerospace factory (such as Ferranti's) in the Forth valley. Plainly some were making an attempt to find a rational Earthly explanation without questioning the honesty of the witness. They probably also had in mind the plain fact that some anomalous marks had appeared at the site of the alleged encounter.

But such an explanation raises more difficulties than it solves. Firstly, although Ferranti do produce guidance systems for vehicles and armaments, they do not produce vehicles, let alone flying machines. In fact there is no aircraft manufacturer in the Forth valley. If such a vehicle was made on Earth, is it likely that we would know nothing of it, and (if it is also secret) that it would be flown in daylight in a public area within sight of a major motorway? On the basis that such a man-made vehicle is not designed to abduct human beings, it would need to be assumed that the apparent attack by the 'mines' (robots) was an accident. In that case the device is dangerous and should never have been flown in public.

There was no indication that the police knew the cause to be a secret vehicle.

26) Was the object an alien spacecraft?

The witness and many others assume that the answer to this question is in the affirmative. The Press, whether or not they believe it, encouraged such a conclusion. I am prepared to consider such an explanation if there is any evidence in favour of it.

The hypothesis that UFOs are extraterrestrial craft is one that begs very many questions, and the onus of proof is on those who believe the hypothesis to be correct. The appearance of alien craft is not part of our everyday experience.

Let alone proof, there is not even any evidence that what the witness saw and what made the anomalous marks was an alien craft. Its strangeness alone is not evidence for the hypothesis. No-one has reported seeing the 'craft' in the sky; or seeing it land or take off. That in itself does not disprove the presence of some object. No aliens were seen either inside or outside the 'craft'. No inexplicable residues have been left, and apart from the temporary marks, the ground of the site has not been altered.

Interpretation of the events of the encounter depends upon prior attitudes. The use of words like 'assault' or 'attack' imply that someone assaulted or

attacked the witness, or caused the 'mines' to assault or attack the witness. No person or being (in the usual sense of the word) was seen. The fact that the 'mines' moved in a manner that we associate with intelligent beings, does not mean that they were, or were guided by, intelligent beings. Random behaviour can appear to be intelligent.

27) Was the object a natural phenomenon?

From the Press reports in Appendix 10 it will be seen that I have expressed my personal view that the cause was some kind of natural phenomenon akin to ball lightning (BL). This was the result of pressure from the media for my own views on the incident. It is very difficult to resist interviewers who are determined to extract further copy. To tell them that I had absolutely no idea of the cause would not have been honest. Nor would it have been honest to say that I believed the object to have been a spacecraft. Unfortunately brief accounts of my views are easily misunderstood, and it is simplistic to say that I believe the witness encountered BL. My views on this natural theory of UFOs may be found elsewhere.

But I may point out how many of the ground effects appear to be electromagnetic in character, how the 'mines' are similar to 'black' BL. It is unfortunate that the nature of BL itself is still a mystery. But assuming that it is an electromagnetic field creating an evacuated cavity, nothing in the account is actually inconsistent with such a mechanism. Indeed, some features support the hypothesis. In particular the deduction that the 'mines' were at low pressure, and the swooshing noise, which might have been the sound of the collapse of the mechanism(s).

The events of the encounter are more understandable if the object is considered to be a natural phenomenon as described above. Now the encounter appears as merely coincidental; the witness encountered by chance a manifestation of what is considered to be a rare natural phenomenon. Indeed it is so rarely seen that science has not yet been able to explain it properly, and few scientists recognize its existence.

The movement of the 'mines' may be seen as a natural result of the influence of magnetic fields. They were attracted to the witness, became attached to him by vacuum and could not easily detach themselves when they tried to return to their usual position. (I do not know why they approached him in the first place, or why they immediately reversed direction when they reached him). His collapse was entirely his own body's reaction to the unusual circumstances, and/or perhaps to some influence from the UFO(s). Whether or not electromagnetic phenomena can induce epileptic fits in susceptible subjects is a matter that has yet to be determined, although it appears to be a strong possibility.

According to this natural hypothesis, the object which the witness saw was nothing more than an evacuated cavity defined by the zone where atmospheric pressure was balanced by the electric field pressure. Subsequent events were the natural result of interaction between himself and the phenomenon. This is not to suggest that the phenomenon is of only minor importance; it may be far from that. The witness may not have seen a spacecraft, but he may be one of very few human beings who have had a close encounter with one of nature's most mysterious phenomena.

28) Contemporary UFO reports

The publication of a major UFO report always generates more reports, and this case was no exception. Many people informed the mass media that they had

seen unusual objects in the sky (even on the ground) at or near the time of this encounter. Naturally interest centres chiefly on those reported in the Livingston area. Some appear to be genuine UFO reports which might have gone unreported if it had not been for the topicality of the subject at the time. (If, as I have suggested elsewhere, UFOs are a weather-related natural phenomenon, it would not be surprising if other UFO events occurred at about the same time as the encounter due to the cold weather.) Others are either hoaxes or misinterpretations of conventional phenomena.

The evening before the encounter, at about 1630 GMT, Peter Caldwell (35), a clerk at a factory at Uphall (3 km NE of the site of the encounter), saw a dull, white round object travelling west to east as he looked north. Behind the object was a large red patch (this is what had caught his attention), making it look 'as if the air was on fire'. (BUFORA Case No. 79-138). Also the previous evening, a dry cool clear night, postman James Forsyth was walking his dog in a park near his home in the Craigmillar area of Edinburgh. He saw two white lights high in the sky above him. They approached each other, passed and then returned to pass again. He watched them for about an hour.

One day that week (it could have been Nov 09), an Edinburgh woman saw a bright light in the sky at 0930 GMT. Since it was travelling west, she assumed that it was an aircraft heading for Edinburgh Airport. But she does not live on the usual flight path. Then she saw that the object which was responsible for the light, assumed to be reflected sunlight, had neither wings nor tail. It was oblong or elliptical in shape, with a dull white grey colour, and a dark patch beside the bright light. (BUFORA Case No. 79-168)

The above sightings could have been of the same object seen by Robert Taylor.

Mrs. Barbara Gerrard (25) of Leslie in Fife was preparing a meal at 1610 GMT on the day of the encounter when she looked out of a window and saw an object in the sky to the west. She thought it was an aircraft with a vapour trail. Five to ten minutes later she looked again and saw another object identical to the first, which was lost to sight. After going outside for a clearer view she saw a third object. Each looked like a floating street light and was coloured orange/pink. (BUFORA Case No. 79-164)

Travelling in a car between Bathgate and Armadale (West Lothian) at 1000 GMT on the day of the encounter, Violet Connor (35) of Bathgate, saw a bright light in the sky to the west, over Armadale. It was long and thin and hazy at the ends, and did not appear to move during the five-minute sighting. (BUFORA Case No. 79-199). This object was seen in a direction opposite to that of Livingston, and could have been a contrail.

There were many other reports, some of which have been found to be false, and none of which relate to the encounter. No independent witness has been found to the object seen by Robert Taylor.

29) Discussion of the Press reports

The Press reports are an object lesson in the treatment of a news item by newspapers. Knowing the facts as we do, it is interesting to compare them with the Press accounts. The difference in emphasis (and not a few differences of fact) provide some insight into the public's attitude to UFOs, or more particularly into the Press's idea of what the public wants to read. It is clear that the Press was responsible for many exaggerations and myths regarding this

case. The resultant mixture may have caused many to dismiss the reports as nonsense.

Firstly there is the notion that alien 'creatures' were involved. This may have derived from an early inadvertent remark; the witness merely called the mysterious spheres 'robots'. But the Press called them 'aliens', 'visitors from space', 'space thugs'. The Scottish Daily Express's 'little grey robots', while more accurate (there was no evidence in fact that they were robots) was clearly meant to be a variation on 'little green men'.

Secondly there is the notion that the large object was a spacecraft. Certainly a view expressed by the witness, but one eagerly taken up by the Press. Of course this notion stems from the fact that the object's shape and colour conformed to the ubiquitous mythical picture of an alien spacecraft. Even the witness, who had no particular interest in either UFOs or space-flight, knew what an alien spacecraft was supposed to look like. He declared 'It was a spaceship' (Evening News; Nov 29). This view was emphasized by the subjective description of features as 'portholes' and 'antennae'. It was further reinforced by implying (even stating) that the 'craft' had 'landed' and left 'deep imprints'. The anomalous marks, especially the holes, were seen as evidence that a 'craft' had landed, and that it was heavy. Estimates varied from 'more than a ton' to 'several tons'. From this claim it was deducible that the 'craft' had 'legs', even though the witness had not reported seeing any. Thus 'legs' became an essential feature of the Press accounts.

Thirdly there is the attribution of a sinister motive to the 'creatures'. It is alleged that they 'attacked' the witness, and 'grabbed' him. The Daily Star even suggested that it was an attempted kidnap. Overall there is a belief that the 'creatures' were intelligent, or (if they were robots) were controlled by intelligent beings.

Fourthly there is the idea that the 'creatures' were vicious - grabbing, scratching or bruising the witness in an attempt to catch him. According to The Sun, he was 'bleeding' when he reached his home. This London tabloid carried the most lurid and exaggerated account.

Every feature of the story that could be exaggerated has been exaggerated by one newspaper or another. The exaggerations are consistent with the popular view that UFOs are alien craft, that the aliens are not only inhuman, but hostile to humanity. The accounts make the most of the idea, a notable feature of some notorious UFO reports, that the aliens tried to abduct the witness, to remove him to another planet. That the 'creatures' had (unnaturally) six legs and an obnoxious smell is seen as further proof that they were not human, and perhaps evil.

Much was made of the idea that the witness had to be hospitalized after the encounter, implying of course that he was much more badly injured than was the case. (This in itself holds an implication that aliens are dangerous and vicious). The Scotsman stated that the witness was 'detained' in hospital, implying (wrongly) that he was examined and found to be in need of attention. Their further report that police were waiting (by the bedside?) for him to recover sufficiently to be 'questioned' was entirely erroneous. At the time the witness was on holiday in England.

The British love of animals has not been left out of the accounts. At a suggestion by the witness, the Press reported that the dog may have frightened the aliens away. This implies (not only that they were aliens) but that they are afraid of dogs, and that, once again, mankind has been saved by his faithful canine servant. The Livingston Post, with their photograph of the dog, saw her as the second witness to the encounter, and wished that she could tell what she

had seen!

While many of the reported details were correct, they were mixed with myth. It was not just an occasion to report another UFO event, but an opportunity to perpetuate and (perhaps) glory in the UFO mystery. What the public already believes about UFOs appears to determine how the Press will present new UFO reports. The stranger the original account the greater the scope for the Press to present that account in terms of the beliefs already adopted by most of mankind.

The lesson for ufologists is that most UFO reports (here we are thinking mainly of close encounter reports) in the Press are probably a mixture of fact and fiction, and that the more sensational or unbelievable aspects are probably exaggerated. In particular the notion that alien creatures are involved is likely to be an invention of the media. One cannot escape the conclusion that newspapers exist not for the dissemination of news, but for the entertainment of their readers.

30) Notes and references

- 1 Alternatively known as 'emery-cloth' or 'emery-buff'. It is a paper, but more often a cloth, surfaced with emery powder held on by an adhesive solution. It is used for polishing and cleaning metal. Emery is a finely granular intimate admixture of corundum and either magnetite or haematite. The appearance of emery-paper is that of many small bright highlights set against a dark background.
- 2 A rubber waterproof boot reaching to just below the knee.
- 3 A temperature of 0°C or below, on a horizontal thermometer in contact with the shorn grass tips of a turf surface.
- 4 A deposit of ice crystals formed on objects, especially during cold clear nights when the dew-point is below freezing.
- 5 A gripping tool made of two limbs pivotted together forming a pair of jaws with a pair of handles to press them together.
- 6 A board which has slats nailed across it at intervals and is used as steps in repair work on roofs, or for walking in excavations.

LOCATION OF PLANS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

	Page
Fig. 1: Plan of site and surrounding area	14
Fig. 2: Plan of site markings from police measurements	18
Fig. 3: The appearance of the UFOs	12
Fig. 4: Photograph of the 'track' marks	26
Fig. 5: Photograph of one of the holes	26
Fig. 6: Photograph of the witness standing where he first saw UFO.	16
Fig. 7: Photograph of the witness standing at the point where he collapsed.	16
Fig. 8: Diagram of the trouser tear left leg.	20
Fig. 9: Diagram of the trouser tear right leg.	20
Fig. 10: Plan of Deans and the UFO site	24
Fig. 11: Location Plan	7
Fig. 12: Plan of site surroundings	10
Fig. 13: Photograph of the encounter site	28
Fig. 14: Photograph of 'track' marks	28
Fig. 15: Photograph of some of the holes	25
Fig. 16: Photograph of one of the holes	27
Fig. 17: Photograph of one of the holes	27

L615/79

LOTHIAN AND BORDERS POLICE
FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY

Case of assault by unidentified object

We hereby certify that on 12th November 1979 in the Forensic Science Laboratory, Edinburgh, we received from Detective Constable Wark of 'F' Division the following items for examination.

The result of our examinations are as follows:

Trousers - worn by Mr Taylor.

The trousers were examined and found to be heavy black cloth trousers with matching belt. There were mud stains on the front of the legs of the trousers above the knees and white powder was found at the bottoms of the legs and around the hip and waist region. On further examination the white powder was found to be similar to maize starch.

A tear was found at each hip. The tear on the left side consisted of a horizontal tear 3" long with connecting vertical tears 1" long and a $\frac{1}{2}$ " long. The tear on the right consisted of a horizontal tear 1" long with two connecting vertical tears each 2" long.

Both of the tears were consistent with the material having been pulled up while the trousers were being worn.

Pullover - worn by Mr Taylor.

The pullover was examined and found to be a pale green knitted jumper with extensive mud smears on the front.

Jumper - worn by Mr Taylor.

The jumper was examined when nothing of significance was found.

Pants - worn by Mr Taylor.

The pants were examined and found to be white 'long johns' with an 'S' shaped tear at the left hip in a corresponding position with the tear at the left side of the trousers.

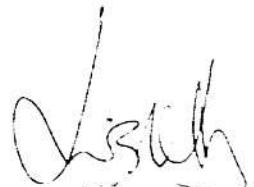
The tear in the pants is consistent with having been made at the same time as the one in the trousers.

Vest - worn by Mr Taylor.

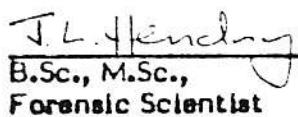
The vest was examined when nothing of significance was found.

Socks - worn by Mr Taylor.

The socks were examined when nothing of significance was found.



B.Sc., M.Sc.,
Forensic Scientist



22nd November 1979



LESTER KNIBB (27), Forensic Scientist, Lothian and Borders Police,
Edinburgh, states:-

I have the qualifications of Bachelor of Science (University of London) and
Master of Science (Strathclyde University).

SHOWN

REDUCTION Joint Report dated 22nd November 1979.

This is a true report and relates to the examination by the witness Hendry
and I of the items received by us from Detective Constable Wark of 'F' Division on
12th November 1979.

SHOWN

LABEL Nos.

trousers
pullover
jumper
pants
vest
socks.

These are the items referred to in our report.

JENNIFER LYNNE HENDRY (23), Forensic Scientist, Lothian and Borders Police,
Edinburgh, states:-

I have the qualifications of Bachelor of Science (Aberdeen University) and
Master of Science (Strathclyde University).

I corroborate the statement of the witness Lester Knibb in full.

EXAMINATION REQUEST FORM

L615/79.

TO 7th

CRIME REPORT REF. NO. _____ I.B. REF. NO. _____ DATE _____

DIVISION _____ STATION HOLDING CRIME REPORT _____

CRIME AND DATE UFC 5/11/79

LOCUS Detention Unit, Netherlands East Livingstone

DESCRIPTION OF ARTICLE(S) _____

1 K. S. SET 79
Police
1200 } and when b.
1200 } Mr. T. J. D.
1200 }
1200 }

REQUEST _____

PERSON(S) SUSPECTED (RELEVANT IDENTIFICATION NOS. AND DATES OF BIRTH TO BE INCLUDED) _____

HANDED IN BY _____ RECEIVED BY 9th DATE 12-11-79

OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF CASE _____

RESULT _____

EXAMINING
OFFICER

CORROBORATING
OFFICER

APPENDIX 3.

WILLIAM DOUGLAS, Police Constable 'F' 29, Lothian and Borders Police, stationed at Livingston.

States:-

I am 36 years of age and have completed 6 years Police service.

About 2.00 p.m. on Friday, 9th November, 1979, I was on duty at Livingston Police Station when I was instructed to attend an incident at Woodlands Park, Deans, Livingston.

I was informed that a Robert Taylor, a forestry worker with the Livingston Development Corporation Estates Department, had alleged being attacked by alien beings from a space craft in the forrest(sic) behind Woodlands Park.

On arrival at Woodlands Park, myself and other officers were led into the forest and shown the location by Mr. Drummond of the Livingston Development Corporation Estates Department. Mr. Drummond did not witness the incident, but he had been shown the locus by Mr. Taylor.

The location was a clearing in the trees on the north side of Deer Hill and approximately 200 yards south of the M.8 motorway. (Map ref. 703 035 on Sheet 65, O.S. map for Falkirk and West Lothian). The clearing was approximately 50 yards x 30 yards with rides leading off north towards Dechmont Law, south towards the M.8 and west towards Woodlands Park. Mr. Drummond indicated some marks on the ground which were located on the northern side of the clearing where the craft was alleged to have stood.

The central marks were similar to that of a caterpillar tractor and were uniform in size. They indicated that an object of several tons had stood there but there was nothing to show that it had been driven or towed away. I made a wide sweep of the area checking for fresh marks which might suggest a mobile crane but I found nothing. The ground in this area is very soft due to the recent rain and any marks would remain for some time.

The central marks were surrounded by holes approximately 3½" in diameter and the same in depth. Each hole had a 'toe' which cut under the sod, in some cases as much as 4". There appeared to be no rational explanation for these marks.

I took measurements of the locus from which I prepared a sketch. I was present when Detective Constable Wark of the Identification Branch took photographs of the locus.

The area was fenced off by the Livingston Development Corporation Estates Department.

In company with Detective Inspector Macdonald and Detective Sergeant Dickson about 6.00 p.m. same date, I called at the Livingston Development Corporation Estates Department and examined the motor vehicle which Mr. Taylor had been using that morning. There was nothing to indicate that he had been involved in an accident and there was nothing on board which might give off fumes likely to cause hallucination.

About 7.00 p.m. on Sunday, 11th November, 1979 in company with Acting Detective Constable MacDonald of Broxburn, I called at 4 Broomieknowe Drive, Deans, Livingston, and interviewed Mr. Robert Taylor and noted his statement regarding the incident. I also took possession of the clothing he was wearing at the time. I later passed these to Detective Constable Wark to be taken for forensic examination.

Mr. Taylor complained of a burning sensation under his chin and grazing on his left thigh which he showed to me. Other than these he appears to have suffered no ill effects from the experience.

APPENDIX 4

JOHN WARK.

Bathgate

JOHN WARK.

Detective Constable,

Bathgate.

states:-

I am 34 years of age and have completed 15 years Police Service.

On Friday, 9th November, 1979, I attended at Dechmont Woods, Livingston, where a Unidentified Flying Object had been sighted. On arriving at the locus Detective Inspector McDonald pointed out marks that had been made on the ground. This area of ground had been fenced off, and measured (sic) approximately 19 feet by 25 feet.

The marks consisted of two tracks, each measuring 10 feet by 1 foot wide. tracks were 7 feet apart. Each track was circled by 20 holes in the ground measuring 3½ins in diameter and 4ins in depth. These holes went into the ground at an angle. I took measurements and photographs of the marks on the ground.

Later at Bathgate Police Station, I prepared a

PRODUCTION No.

sketch plan

of the marks on the ground at Dechmont Woods, Livingston.

The sketch plan is attached to the report.

ROBERT DAVID TAYLOR, 61 years, born 25.7.1918 at Bonshead near Pitlochry, Foreman Forrester (sic), 4 Broomieknowe Drive, Deans, West Lothian.

States.

I am a foreman Forrester(sic) employed by Livingston Development Corporation.

On Friday 9th November, 1979, I started work at 7.45 a.m. at Rosebank Nurseries and my first job was to take a caravan and squad to a wood near Bellsquarry. I returned to the Nursery and filled in some time sheets for the previous day. I filled up my vehicle, a 'Bedford' pick up, with petrol, then went home for my breakfast. I left my home about 10.10 a.m. and drove to Woodlands Park and onto Dechmont Woods where I parked the vehicle at the first clearing. I then walked to the second wood and walked down the 'ride' to a part where it meets the transverse 'ride'. At this point there is a clearing measuring about 75 x 50 yards. It is covered in grass. This would be about 10.30 a.m.

As I cleared the trees and entered the clearing I saw this object in front of me. I can describe this object as follows. It was about 30 feet high, but not as high as the trees. It was grey in colour although I got the impression that the top of the dome shape changed from grey to translucent continually. The top of the object was dome shaped and had a flange around the middle on which were situated were(sic) several antennae(sic) with objects similar to rotors on the top. There were also several round porthole-type apertures on the dome shape above the flange. I do not know what the bottom of the object was like.

As I stood and watched the object I saw two smaller objects appear from underneath it and come shooting over towards me at a fast rate of speed. These objects were shaped like sea mines with about 6 legs attached thereto. These spheres rolled towards me from one leg to another and they both arrived at my side. At this time I was aware of a strong pungent smell which was overpowering. Although I was lapsing into subconscious (sic) I was aware of being grabbed on either side of my legs at the top of my thighs. I also felt pressure under my chin and a burning sensation on my chin. I fell forward but was not conscious of being dragged forward. The next thing I knew was a whooshing sound and my dog, which had been running in the trees barking. I do not know if this happened before I lost consciousness or after I came round. When I did come round there was nothing there although I felt extremely weak (sic) and unsteady on my feet. I dragged myself up and half crawled, half staggered to my vehicle.

On reaching my vehicle I tried to use the radio but could not speak. I tried to drive the vehicle but(but) could not coordinate my actions and as a result of my attempts I got the vehicle bogged down. I then walked home in a dazed condition and when I got to my house I spoke to my wife about the smell and she ran a bath for me and I had a bath. My wife then telephoned my boss, Mr.Drummond, and he came to the house to see me. I asked him to go to the locus and he did. My doctor, Dr. Adams was summoned and he attended at the house and examined me. I was found to be suffering from a graze on the top of my left thigh. While the Dr. was there my boss returned and told me that there was nothing to be seen at the locus. However with the Dr.'s permission I went to the locus with Mr.Drummond and showed him where the machine was. On the ground I could see several marks where it had been.

Dr. Adams then suggested that I go to Bangour Hospital for a check up and and Xray which I agreed to do. However when I got to the hospital I had to wait about two hours and eventually got fed up waiting. I left without being examined after signing a discharge form.

Later that day I left my home and travelled to Keswick to visit my daughter on a prearranged visit.

As a result of being grabbed at locus my trousers were torn on both sides at the top of my legs. My 'long johns' were also torn but on the left side only.

Incident at Dechmont Woods, Livingston, West Lothian,
on Friday, 9th November, 1979.

Robert John Taylor, 61 years, born 25.7.1918 is employed by Livingston Development Corporation as a foreman forester, operating from the depot at Rosebank, Livingston.

On Friday, 9th November, 1979, at 7.45 a.m., Mr. Taylor commenced work at 'Rosebank', Livingston, and attended to some routine tasks. He thereafter went home to 4 Broomieknowe Drive, Deans, Livingston, for breakfast. About 10.10 a.m. he left home to continue work and he drove the Bedford pick-up truck to the west side of Dechmont Woods, Livingston, where he parked it on a pathway there. It was his intention to carry out a routine inspection of the woods and the surrounding fences and gates.

He walked, with his dog, through the wooded area in a north-easterly direction for a distance of about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile and on reaching a large clearing of some 25 yards x 25 yards, approximately 600 yards north from Dechmont Law which is in a fairly isolated position, he states he saw a large dome shaped object on the ground in front of him. He describes the dome shaped object as being about 30 feet high, grey in colour changing to translucent continually, with a flange around the middle on which there were situated several antennae(sic) with objects similar to rotors on top. It had several round porthole type apertures on the dome shape above the flange.

As Mr. Taylor stood and watched this object he alleges that two smaller objects appeared from underneath it and approached him in a rolling action, at a fast rate of speed. He describes these objects as being shaped like sea mines with approximately 6 legs attached thereto. These objects arrived, one on either side of Mr. Taylor, and he was aware of a strong pungent smell which was overpowering. He states that as he was lapsing into subconsciousness (sic) he was aware of being seized on either side of his legs at the top of his thighs and of feeling pressure under his chin with a burning sensation on it.

Mr. Taylor then recollects falling forward, hearing a 'whooshing' sound as if an object was taking off and his dog barking. When he came round, Mr. Taylor felt extremely weak and unsteady on his feet. He half crawled, half staggered to his vehicle and on reaching it, he endeavoured to use the radio to notify his office, but found himself unable to speak. He could not co-ordinate his actions and in an attempt to reverse his vehicle it ran off the pathway and became bogged down in the soft earth.

Mr. Taylor thereafter walked home, a distance of about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile, reaching there about 11.15 a.m. His wife, Mary Stevenson or Taylor, (66) was at home and she speaks to (sic) his face and clothes being dirty and that he was pale and exhausted looking. When she asked him what had happened, Mr. Taylor replied that he had been attacked by a "spaceship thing", made mention of a smell and intimated that he required to have a bath. Mrs. Taylor did not detect any smell from her husband on his clothing but she observed that his trousers were slightly torn on the outside of both legs just below the side pockets. Mr. Taylor described to his wife the object he had seen as being like a large spinning top and the smaller objects which had attacked him as being round.

Malcolm Kenneth Drummond (58), Landscape Forestry Manager, 'Deanbank', Deans South, Livingston, who is in charge of Mr. Taylor, was summoned to the house and learning of the incident went to the locus. He saw nothing at this time. Mr. Drummond arranged for the Bedford pick up truck, which Mr. Taylor had been driving, to be uplifted and he thereafter returned to Taylor's home. The truck was undamaged.

Gordon James Harvey Adams, M.B., Ch.B., Health Centre, Blackburn, the family doctor, attended at 4 Broomieknowe Drive, Livingston, and examined Mr. Taylor

who was complaining of a headache. The only visible injuries found were a graze to his left thigh and a graze under his chin which was barely visible. Dr. Adams found no signs of head injury or brain compression and his temperature and blood pressure were normal. However as a precautionary measure, Dr. Adams decided to send Mr. Taylor to Bangour General Hospital, Uphall, for head X-ray and an interview with a psychiatrist.

Before going to hospital, however, Mr. Taylor insisted on returning to the locus with Mr. Drummond. Both men returned to the clearing at locus and there found marks on the ground which appeared to be fresh and could not be accounted for.

Following this both men returned home. Mr. Taylor was conveyed to Bangour General Hospital for examination, while Mr. Drummond notified the Police at Livingston of the matter. Mr. Taylor, after being taken to Bangour General Hospital signed himself out before examination, having waited approximately 2 hours without being seen by a Doctor.

About 2.00 p.m., same date, Detective Inspector MacDonald, with other officers, visited the locus. The weather at this time was dry but it was extremely cold.

The grass within the woodland clearing was fairly long. Within the central area of the grass were two tracks which appeared to have been made by a track-laying vehicle. However, no marks were found leading to or from the tracks. The tracks were 10 feet long, 1 foot wide and seven feet apart. The tracks appeared to be reasonably fresh but rain water was lying on them which suggested that the marks had not been made that morning. Surrounding the tracks and running between the tracks were a number of small holes. These holes, which were all similar and appeared fresh, went into the ground at a slight angle for a depth of about 3 inches and they were wide enough to admit the breadth of four fingers.

The clothing worn by Mr. Taylor at the time of the incident has been examined by Lester Knibb and Jennifer Hendry of the Forensic Science Laboratory, Force Headquarters, but nothing of significance was found other than the tears previously mentioned with a corresponding tear on the left leg of his underpants.

Despite extensive enquiries made no information has been gained which could indicate what in fact made the marks on the ground at locus.

Mr. Taylor is a respected member of the community and is described as a conscientious (sic) and trustworthy person, not likely to invent such a story. It should be noted, however, that about 14 years ago he suffered from meningitis and on 3rd July of this year after complaining to his doctor of severe headaches, he was admitted to the City Hospital, Edinburgh, for examination. Nothing was found and he was discharged after a few days. After 5 days after this reported incident, Mr. Taylor was re-visited by Dr. Adams. He was found to be well, but declined the doctor's wish that he be seen by a neurologist.

GORDON JAMES HARVEY ADAMS, MB, Ch.B., The Health Centre, Blackburn,
West Lothian.

States.

About midday on Friday 9th November, 1979, I was called to the dwelling house at 4 Broomieknowe Drive, Deans, West Lothian, to see one of our patients by the name of Robert Taylor. I entered the house and saw Mr. Taylor seated on the sofa. He was dressed and in a clean and tidy state. He said to me that I would not believe his story. I asked him what had happened and he said that he had been working in the woods when he saw a large object like a spinning top, and, while he had been watching it two round objects came out of the object and grabbed his legs. He then said he had a sensation of a smell and collapsed.

He said he was suffering from a headache and a graze to his left leg. He also had a slight graze under his chin which was hardly visible. I examined him for signs of a head injury or brain compression but could find none. His temperature was O.K. as was his blood pressure, heart and lungs.

I decided to send him to Bangour General Hospital for a head X-ray and an interview with a psychiatrist. It is my intention to go and see him again within the next few days before forming any opinions of him.

Earlier this year I had him admitted to City Hospital, Edinburgh, after he complained of severe headaches. I thought at the time it may have been a return of the meningitis he suffered previously but he was released a week later after various tests had been carried out. I had not seen him since that occasion.

According to our records about 14 years ago Taylor suffered from Meningitis and was treated in hospital for this complaint.

APPENDIX 8.

MARY STEVENSON or TAYLOR*, (66), Housewife, 4 Broomieknowe Drive, Deans, West Lothian.

States:-

On Friday, 9th November, 1979, my husband left for work as usual at about 7.40 a.m. He was in good spirits and appeared his normal self. He returned to the house about 9.15 a.m. which was his normal practice to have a cup of tea and pick up his dog. He left the house about 9.25 a.m. and again at that time he appeared normal.

About 11.15 a.m., same day, I was working in the kitchen of my house when I looked out the window and saw my husband walking up the road towards the house. He came into the house and I said to him, "What's happened" thinking there had been an accident. His face was dirty as was his clothes. He said, "No, I've been attacked". I said "With men". He said "No, a spaceship thing". I said to him "there's no such thing and I'll phone for the doctor". He told me there was no need to phone the Doctor. He was going on about a smell and said that he would need a bath so I ran a bath for him then telephoned his boss, Mr. Drummond, who later called at the house.

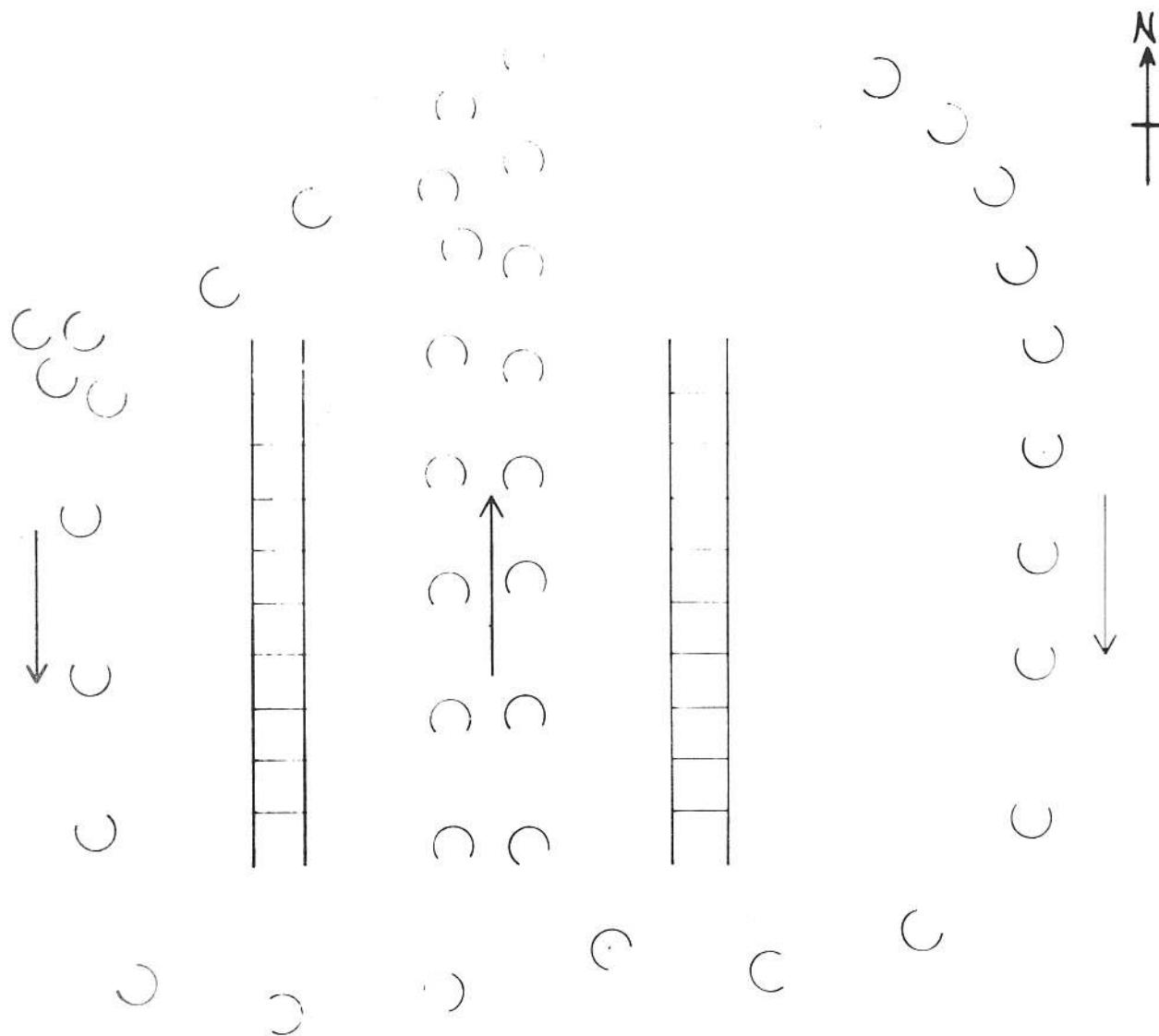
While my husband was in the house I did not get any smell from him or from his clothing. I did however note that his jersey had dirt on the front of it as did his trousers. His trousers were also torn on either side near to the pockets. My husband complained of a graze mark on his left leg and a graze under his chin. He was very pale, drained and exhausted when he came home.

I asked him to describe what he had seen and he said that it was like a large spinning top and that he had been attacked by two round objects which rolled over towards him. When Mr. Drummond arrived my husband told him what had happened and he went up to the woods. He returned and said that there was nothing there. My husband said there would be marks because he thought the object was heavy. The doctor then allowed my husband to go up to the woods and when he returned he said that there were marks there.

My husband has no history of mental illness although about 14 years ago just after we arrived in this area he contracted meningitis. The treatment was successful although in July, 1979, he suffered a series of headaches and was again admitted to the City Hospital, Edinburgh. He was released a week later after various tests. Since then his health has been good.

*Scottish law regards a married woman's maiden surname as an alternative surname to that of her husband.

SKETCH PLAN OF LOCUS OF U.F.O. INCIDENT.
DECHMONT, WEST LOTHIAN.



SCALE: $\frac{1}{2}'' = 1\text{ft. (approx.)}$

PREPARED BY D.C. WARK.

Press Reports

Some minor spelling errors have been corrected, and illustrations omitted. The accounts are in chronological order.

The Scotsman (1979 Nov 10)

MAN TAKEN TO HOSPITAL AFTER 'CLOSE ENCOUNTER'

A forestry worker was last night recovering from a close encounter of the strangest kind. Police have fenced off the site of an alleged assault by 'strange creatures'. They confirmed that there were marks on the ground, including a large number of indentations which 'could be consistent' with an object standing on stilts. There were also some deep tread-like marks.

The police spokesman said there could be 'a hundred feasible explanations' of the marks.

Yesterday morning Mr. Bob Taylor, a foreman forester, staggered into his home at Broomyknowe Drive, Livingston Station, shocked and dishevelled.

His wife, Mary, called Mr. Malcolm Drummond, head of the Livingston Development Corporation forestry department.

Mr. Taylor told him he had been working alone in the forest at Detchmont Hill, Livingston, at around 10 am on Friday. He rounded a corner in a path and was confronted by a silver spinning-top-shaped craft standing in a clearing.

Deep marks

From the craft came 'two creatures' who grabbed him by the hips and tried to drag him into their machine, Mr. Taylor claimed.

All he can remember after that is a very strong smell and the sound of a dog barking which he thinks may have frightened off his assailants.

He must have passed out, either from the smell or shock, when he came to the clearing was empty. There was a pattern of deep regular marks on the ground. He went to his van but was so shaken that he was unable to drive, Mr. Drummond said.

Mr. Taylor then staggered the mile and a half to his house. His wife called Mr. Drummond who later called the police. Mr. Taylor was taken to Bangour General Hospital where he was detained.

'His trousers were torn and both sides of his thighs were scratched and bruised,' said Mr. Drummond.

Near Motorway

CID officers were last night waiting for Mr. Taylor to recover sufficiently to be questioned.

Mr. Drummond visited the part of the wood, about 400 yards from the M8, where Mr. Taylor said he had had his close encounter.

'There are distinct triangular marks on the ground, but no scorch marks. As for the craft, Bob insists it was not a type of machine he recognised.'

'Mr. Taylor is a sensible straightforward man,' Mr. Drummond added.

Police checking helicopter flights from Edinburgh and Glasgow yesterday found none had been flying near the Livingston area yesterday.

A hospital spokesman said last night that Mr. Taylor had discharged himself from hospital and gone home. He could not be contacted at his home late last night.

CLOSE ENCOUNTER OF A FANTASTIC KIND

A forestry worker was last night recovering from a close encounter of the strangest kind.

And today police were examining the site of an alleged assault by 'strange creatures'.

Mr. Bob Taylor, a foreman forester, arrived yesterday at his home in Broomyknowe Drive, Livingston, West Lothian, in a shocked and dishevelled state.

His wife, Mary, called his boss, Mr. Malcolm Drummond, head of the Livingston Development Corporation forestry department. What he heard from Mr. Taylor was a tale of the fantastic.

'And Mr. Taylor is a sensible straightforward man', Mr. Drummond said.

Alone

Mr. Taylor had been working alone in the forest at Dachmont Hill, Livingston, about 10 am yesterday.

When he rounded a corner in a path through the trees, he was confronted by a silver craft standing in a clearing. Two 'creatures' came out of the craft and tried to drag him into their machine, Mr. Taylor claimed.

All he can remember after that is a strong smell and the sound of a dog barking which he thinks may have frightened off his attackers.

He thinks he must have passed out either from the smell or shock.

But when he came to, the clearing was empty save for a pattern of deep regular marks on the ground.

He went to his van but was so shaken, said Mr. Drummond, he was unable to drive. Mr. Taylor then staggered the mile and a half to his house.

Bruised

He was later taken to Bangour General Hospital for treatment.

'His trousers were torn and the tops of both his thighs were scratched and bruised,' Mr. Drummond said.

Senior police officers were last night waiting for Mr. Taylor to recover sufficiently before questioning him about his experience. An area of the woodland has been cordoned off.

Mr. Taylor's workmate and neighbour, Mr. Pender Martin, said: 'Bob is a serious, sober man in his 50's. He is not a fanciful person and there is no question of him drinking.'

Mr. Drummond visited the part of the wood where Mr. Taylor said he had had his close encounter.

'There are distinct triangular marks on the ground but no scorch marks.'

Unusual

Mr. Steuart Campbell, an Edinburgh architect, who acts as Scottish Investigating co-ordinator for the British UFO Research Association said last night that he was interested in Mr. Taylor's story but sceptical of the suggestion of figures coming out of a craft which had landed.

'It does sound like the sort of thing I would like to investigate,' he said. 'In such cases we try to see the person immediately involved and any other witnesses.'

Police Probe Marks Mystery

ATTACK OF THE 'ALIENS'

by Nigel Duncan

Detectives are still investigating today an alleged assault by 'strange creatures' on a Livingston forestry worker.

The probe follows an incident at a lonely spot on the outskirts of the new town. Police say they are still mystified.

Their disclosure comes after a day spent searching a small area near Livingston's exclusive Woodlands Park housing area, where foreman forester Mr. Bob Taylor, of 4 Broomyknowe Drive, Livingston Station, was allegedly attacked by 'aliens'.

Mr. Taylor, who has worked for the forestry department for around 15 years, staggered into his home shocked and dishevelled. Police were called and he was taken to Bangour General Hospital.

Fainted

Mr. Taylor told of making his usual check on the forest area when he rounded a corner in a tree-lined path and was confronted by a silver spinning top-shaped craft standing in a clearing.

From the craft came 'two creatures', who grabbed him by the hips and apparently tried to drag him into their machine.

Mr. Taylor fainted, and when he came to found he had lost his voice and could not walk.

Mr. Malcolm Drummond, head of Livingston Development Corporation forestry department, said that Mr. Taylor had to crawl part of the way back to his home from the incident spot which lies between Dalmont Law and the M8 Edinburgh-Glasgow motorway.

Sceptical

The 'aliens' had been in no way 'like humans', said Mr. Drummond. He said that many had been sceptical about the report, but after visiting the site he stressed: 'It is clear that something exceptional happened.'

He described Mr. Taylor as being a sensible straight-forward man.

Mr. Steuart Campbell, Scottish investigating co-ordinator for the British Unidentified Flying Objects Research Association, was visiting the spot today.

Detectives spent hours combing the clearing and photographing the alleged landing site.

An official said: 'There are marks and indentations that indicate that something has been there, but God knows what.'

Deep marks

Locals on their Saturday morning walk stopped to gaze at the site, which has been fenced off. Their interest was in the deep marks in the ground, which included a large number of indentations in a 15-foot radius. In their midst were a number of tracks about two inches deep.

(accompanied by a photograph of the marks, entitled 'Reporter Duncan and those tracks in the forest'.)

IT MAY BE LIKE DR. WHO, BUT WHAT REALLY HAPPENED IN SCOTLAND?

by George Birrell

UFO experts headed for Dachmont Hill yesterday - and the mystery of the 'object like something from Dr. Who'.

They examined mysterious marks on the ground at Livingston, West Lothian, where a man claimed he was attacked by creatures from space.

The area of grassland near the Glasgow-to-Edinburgh motorway was cordoned off on the advice of police.

Last night a police spokesman said: 'It's all very strange - like something from Dr. Who.'

'There are indentations on the ground as if made by the legs of some machine. But there are no marks leading to the spot which is in a secluded area.'

Meanwhile the man at the centre of the riddle, 50-year-old forestry worker Mr. Bob Taylor, was in England with his wife Mary, visiting relatives.

His boss, Mr. Malcolm Drummond, head of the Livingston Development Corporation forestry department, said: 'Bob was shocked and upset by the incident. But he had arranged this trip some time ago and he thought he would go ahead with it to get away from all the publicity.'

Sensible

Mr. Taylor, of Broomyknowe Drive, Livingston Station - described by his boss and neighbours as a 'sensible, straight-forward man' - says his clash with the space creatures took place early on Friday morning when he was working alone on the hill.

As he reached a clearing, he says he was faced with a silver coloured spherical spacecraft. Suddenly two 'creatures' shaped like wheels with arms peeled off from the craft and approached.

They grabbed him by the sides of his trousers and tore them, leaving scratch marks on his thighs. At this point Mr. Taylor fainted but says he had the sensation of being dragged towards the craft.

He also remembers a strange chemical smell, and his red setter dog, normally a placid creature, barked furiously.

When he awoke he was dazed and shocked and the creatures and their craft had gone. There were no scorch marks, only flattened grass.

Mr. Taylor, a father of seven grown-up children, crawled several hundred yards back to his van. But he was too shaken to drive or even to use the van radio to contact his base.

Dazed

Still dazed, he walked the mile and a half to his home before contacting base.

He was taken to Bangour Hospital for a check up then went home.

Mr. Steuart Campbell, a member of the British UFO Research Association said last night: 'I found parallel lines on the site described by Mr. Taylor.'

'They appeared to have been made by some form of tracked vehicle, yet there was no sign of the tracks leading to, or departing from the area. Also there were marks of a circular design and a series of holes in a pattern round the tracks.'

Mr. Campbell will be going back to the area this morning to take detailed measurements before sending a report to his association.

FORESTER 'ATTACKED BY VISITORS FROM SPACE'

An area of Scottish grassland was sealed off on the advice of police yesterday after a forestry worker claimed he was attacked there by creatures from space.

Experts in the field of unidentified flying objects rushed to the site at Livingston, West Lothian, to examine imprints on the ground.

Last night a police spokesman said: 'It's all very strange. There are indentations on the ground as if made by the legs of some machine. But there are no marks leading to the spot, which is in quite a secluded area.'

Mr. Bob Taylor, a 50-year-old forestry foreman says he was assaulted by two creatures who tried to pull him into their spacecraft.

It happened early on Friday morning when Mr. Taylor was working alone on Dechmont Hill, near the M8 Glasgow-Edinburgh motorway.

His boss Mr. Malcolm Drummond said: 'Bob Taylor is not a man to make something up. If he says he was attacked by some creatures then there must have been something there. And the indentations on the ground bear this out.'

Mr. Taylor and his wife Mary were last night visiting relatives in England.

'Bob was shocked and upset by the incident,' said Mr. Drummond, who is head of the Livingston Development Corporation forestry department.

'But he had arranged some time ago to make this trip and he thought he would go ahead with it despite what had happened, as it would allow him to get away from all the publicity.'

'Sensible'

Neighbours of Mr. Taylor, of Broomyknowe Drive, Livingston Station, backed up Mr. Drummond's description of Mr. Taylor as a 'sensible straight-forward man.'

Mr. Taylor said that as he reached a clearing on the hill he was faced with a silver-coloured spacecraft. Suddenly, two creatures shaped like wheels with arms peeled off from the craft and slowly approached him.

They grabbed him by the sides of his trousers and tore them, leaving scratch marks on his thighs. At this point Mr. Taylor fainted.

But he said he had the sensation of being dragged towards the craft.

Later, investigations revealed two small trailmarks which could have been made by the feet of someone being dragged.

Mr. Taylor also remembers a strong chemical smell and his red setter, normally a placid creature, barking furiously.

When he came round he was dazed and shocked and the creatures and their craft had gone.

All that remained were a dozen or so deep triangular marks in the ground. There were also two parallel caterpillar tracks on the same spot. But there were no scorch marks, only flattened grass.

After the incident Mr. Taylor, a father of seven grown-up children, crawled several hundred yards back to his van. But after reversing it he felt unable to drive and the vehicle was stuck in the mud.

Later police found the van with the engine still running and the radio-microphone lying on the floor.

Mr. Taylor, still dazed, walked the mile-and-a-half to his home before contacting Mr. Drummond.

Although there were no witnesses to the events on Dechmont Hill, a 72-year-old Glasgow woman yesterday came forward with claims of a sighting which could add substance to Mr. Taylor's story.

Mrs. Mary Hunter, of Drumlendrick Avenue, Easterhouse, who lives opposite a large field, said she noticed a pale white ball-shaped object in the sky on Friday afternoon.

'I called a neighbour and we watched it for some time,' she said. 'I am sure I saw it split up in half and then come together again.'

'Then suddenly it just vanished. There was no flickering or anything. It was something I had not seen before. I don't drink. So I wasn't seeing things.'

Mr. Steuart Campbell, a member of the British UFO Research Association, said: 'I found parallel lines on the site described by Mr. Taylor.'

'Also there were marks of a circular design and a series of holes in a pattern round the tracks.'

'What I saw could have been caused by a space craft. But there could, of course, be another explanation, such as a bolt of ball lightning.'

The Sunday Mail (1979 Nov 11) (Scottish Sunday paper)

THE 'ALIEN' MAN LEAVES HOSPITAL

A man who claims he had a close encounter with two aliens has signed himself out of hospital and travelled south to visit relatives.

Forestry worker Bob Taylor, 52, of 4 Broomyknowe Drive, Livingston Station, West Lothian, told police he had been attacked by aliens as he was working on Dechmont Hill on Friday.

He staggered home shocked and dishevelled.

Silver

He claimed he was grabbed by two creatures who tried to drag him into their silver spinning-top shaped craft in a clearing near Woodlands Park, Deans.

Mr. Taylor was taken to Bangour Hospital but later signed himself out.

Police are still 'officially investigating' the incident.

But it is believed Mr. Taylor had an accident when he fell from his tractor just before his 'close encounter'.

The Glasgow Herald (1979 Nov 12)

THE EXPERT'S THEORY ON 'ALIEN CRAFT'

by Tom McConnell

Forestry worker Mr. Bob Taylor, who claimed he was attacked by 'strange creatures' who dragged him towards their craft, may have been the victim of a natural phenomenon.

Mr. Steuart Campbell, of the British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association, said last night: 'I have theories which I think can explain what he saw, but not in terms of alien spacecraft.'

Mr. Campbell, the association's Scottish investigations co-ordinator, hopes to interview Mr. Taylor, of Broomyknowe Drive, Livingston, West Lothian, who had the strange encounter at Dechmont Hill, Livingston, on Friday.

Mr. Taylor claimed that in a forest clearing he saw a silver craft. Two

circular creatures approached him and tried to drag him towards the craft. His trousers were torn and his thighs bruised.

After treatment for shock in Bangour Hospital, Mr. Taylor travelled south to visit relatives and he has not yet been interviewed by police.

The area has been cordoned off by the police, and during the weekend they took Mr. Campbell to the site to investigate marks on the ground.

He said: 'there are marks in the ground which could have been made by the object or could have been there before. There are also some relatively fresh holes in the ground.'

'While a lot of people might find Mr. Taylor's claims hard to swallow I am not inclined to take that view.'

'I have some idea of what he saw. I do not believe that creatures from another planet are capable of coming here. However, it could have been a natural phenomenon - electrical phenomena in the atmosphere - of which little is known and for which there is little explanation by science.'

The Sun (1979 Nov 12)

• 'SPACE THUGS' ATTACK BOB AND HIS DOG

The 'close encounter' mystery of a forestry worker who claims he was attacked by creatures from space deepened yesterday.

Dozens of people came forward to say they saw swooping lights in the sky the night before 50-year-old Bob Taylor staggered shocked and bleeding, from a wood.

And police said they are 'seriously' investigating strange marks in the ground that Mr. Taylor claims were made by a spaceship.

Mr. Taylor, of Broomyknowe Drive, Livingston, Lothian, said his eerie ordeal began as he was walking with his dog in a wood near the town. He came into a clearing and saw a silver sphere-shaped spaceship.

Then two 'machine-like' creatures stepped out and grabbed him.

They tore at his clothes and left cuts on his legs.

Mr. Taylor said he fainted, and when he came to the creatures and spaceships had gone.

A police spokesman said last night: 'We're taking this seriously.'

'We have examined the marks in the ground, which look as if they have been made by the legs of some machine.'

Mr. Taylor, who works for Livingston Development Corporation, was staying with relatives last night, recovering from shock and injuries.

His boss, Malcolm Drummond said: 'I've no reason to doubt Bob.'

'I went with police to the spot where it happened and we saw deep dents in the ground where something had landed.'

He added: 'Bob is a very sensible man. He wouldn't make up anything like this.'

ALIENS ATTACK CLAIM A MYSTERY - POLICE

Detectives admitted today that they were baffled by a Livingston forestry worker's claim that he was attacked by 'strange creatures'.

Their disclosure follows an extensive interview of Mr. Robert Taylor, 4 Broomieknowe Drive, Livingston Station, who says he was attacked by 'aliens' on the outskirts of the town.

Mr. Taylor told police that about 10 o'clock on Friday morning he saw a spacecraft about 30 feet high with a dome that constantly changed colour. Beneath it was a platform with antennae.

Six Legs

Mr. Taylor claims he was attacked by two 'bodies' round in shape and with about six legs, that approached silently and at great speed. He was aware of a 'foul smell' and lost consciousness.

Apparently the creatures tried to drag him into the craft.

It is believed he crawled and staggered about 1½ miles to his home where he arrived shocked and dishevelled. He was taken to Bangour General Hospital but later discharged himself.

The detectives said Mr. Taylor (61) was none the worse for the incident.

'The man's integrity is not in doubt,' he said.

MAN TELLS OF BRUSH WITH ALIEN ROBOTS

by Derek Bateman

A 61-year-old forestry worker who reported seeing an alien craft on Friday, spoke yesterday for the first time about his experience.

Mr. Bob Taylor, of Broomieknowe Drive, Livingston, West Lothian, said he had been walking between the trees towards a large clearing on Dechmont Hill, Livingston, after leaving his pick-up vehicle behind.

Camouflaged

'This ship was sitting there. I took it to be a space ship or something. It was a dome about 20 or 30 feet high with a large flange round it. There were little propellers on the flange. I was about 12 yards from it. I stood and watched for I don't know how long. I was mesmerised.'

'It was a very dull grey colour and parts of it seemed to disappear from time to time as if they were camouflaged and merging into the background. Or perhaps it was my eyes.'

Mr. Taylor went on: 'Then two figures came out, I think from underneath it. They were grey ball shapes about four feet high with six metal spikes on each. They were robots of some kind. They were made of something like emery board. They were not smooth.'

'They moved on the spikes which made a kind of suction noise. There was no other sound. Not even machinery noise.'

'They came very quickly. I couldn't move. They came right up beside me and there was a very powerful odour. It was choking me. I don't know if they put some on me but I don't think they were there to do me any harm. I must have fainted,' he said.

Mr. Taylor's Irish setter Lara, which left him in the wood, started to

bark. 'I think he may have chased them off. They were gone when I came round. There were these strange marks on the ground. They were about two inches deep and triangular, not unlike caterpillar tracks. But they didn't go anywhere.'

'Severe pain.'

His trousers were ripped on either hip. He crawled some of the way home, about a mile-and-a-half. He was unable to drive and could only move the pick-up 10 yards.

Mr. Taylor went to Bangour General Hospital immediately after the sighting. However he discharged himself against medical advice before doctors could X-ray him although he was suffering a 'severe pain' in his head.

'I left the hospital because I had to wait three hours before I was seen and then they insisted that I would have to strip before having my head X-rayed. I just refused. I had had enough,' he said.

'My mind is at rest. I have no plans to have a check-up.'

Police are treating it as a suspicious happening and until some expert can throw some light on the matter it is likely to stay on the unsolved file.

(Accompanied by photograph of Bob Taylor, captioned: 'Mr. Taylor holds up a drawing of the space craft and 'creature' at yesterday's news conference.')

Scottish Daily Express (1979 Nov 13)

THE ALIENS . . .

Close encounter with the little grey robots

This is forestry worker Bob Taylor and his drawing of an alien space craft and its robot occupants with which he came face to face in a West Lothian wood.

'They were dull grey and rough - like emery paper,' he said. Before they left for the unknown the robots, like naval mines with three long stalks, approached him.

'They made a sucking sound as they rolled across the ground,' he added.

Bob's close encounter came after he had been working in a wood near Livingston. He went into a clearing near the M8 motorway and was confronted by a large dome-shaped craft.

Smell

'I was standing only 12 yards from the machine. It was 20 to 30 feet long and looked like an airship. Around it was a flange and there were propellers sticking out.'

As the robots came out of the craft and approached him he noticed a strong smell. 'It caught the back of my throat and took my breath away.'

'I must have passed out. I think my dog frightened the creatures off.'

When he came round the clearing was empty.

(accompanying photograph of the witness holding a drawing of UFO; caption 'Bob Taylor and his drawing of the mystery space craft'.)

Daily Star (1979 Nov 13)

BOB'S SPACE KIDNAP TERROR
by Stuart McCartney

A shaken forestry worker last night told how he was almost kidnapped by creatures from outer space.

Bob Taylor, 61, said only the presence of his dog prevented him being taken into a spaceship.

Police are convinced Bob, of Broomyknowe Drive, Livingston, West Lothian, 'definitely saw something.'

It was on Friday while walking his red setter Lara on Dechmont Hill near the M8 that he came to a clearing.

He said: 'I suddenly saw a strange craft, about 30 ft. in width, dark grey and with portholes.'

Fainted

'I saw it had propellers of some sort, and by this time I had stopped to have a look, I suppose I was about 12 yards away when I realised something was wrong.'

'Two creatures came towards me. They were small and round, like wartime mines with legs and each was about 4 ft. tall.'

'There was a very powerful odour in the vicinity, and I remember thinking they were robots.'

'I couldn't move, and I think I must have fainted. The next thing I remember was the sound of my dog barking.'

His clothes torn, Bob managed to stagger home to his wife, Mary.

Livingston Post (1979 Nov 15)

Bob Taylor's incredible story - in full

MY BRUSH WITH THE ALIENS

Quote: 'I felt no menace from either the craft or the robots.'

Story by Ian Dow

A man relived this week his encounter in a Livingston wood with 'robot-like creatures from a strange craft'.

Bob Taylor told how the encounter left him shocked, dazed and unable to speak.

He described how he discovered a large dome-shaped machine in a secluded clearing in Dechmont Law Wood.

Mr. Taylor revealed his tale of the fantastic to a Press conference on Monday.

On Friday morning 61-year-old Mr. Taylor was working in the woods at Dechmont Law, below Deer Hill, only a few hundred yards from the M8 motorway.

At around 10.20 a.m. he walked into a clearing where he was confronted by a large dull grey dome-shaped craft.

'Around it was a flange and there were propellers sticking out.'

In calm and measured tones Mr. Taylor told incredulous newspaper-men how the machine seemed to be merging into its surroundings.

'It seemed as if it was camouflaging itself,' he said.

Mr. Taylor was alone in the woods except for his Irish setter, Lara. He had parked his LDC forestry department van quite some distance away from the clearing.

As he gazed down at the silent unmarked craft in the hollow, two spheres came from beneath it.

'They were dull grey and rough in texture like emery paper,' he said.

'They looked like naval mines, about four to five foot high, with six stalks coming from each one.'

'I was mesmerised as I watched,' said the foreman forester.

But Mr. Taylor's memory of what happened after they closed on him is hazy.

As they rolled towards him on the stalks the only noise he heard was a sucking sound as they crossed the damp grass.

He was overpowered by a very strong smell.

'I could hardly breathe. The smell caught the back of my throat,' he said.

'Then I must have fainted or been knocked out by the smell.'

He assumes the robots must have grabbed him because when he came round his trousers were torn at the sides of his legs.

Mr. Taylor could not recall with accuracy his emotions during those incredible minutes of Friday morning.

But he is certain there wasn't any menace from the craft or the two machines which approached him.

One thing he remembers as he was suffering from the effects of the powerful odour was Lara barking.

'Lara may have frightened the machines off or perhaps unnerved them. I don't know,' he said.

When he came round he found the clearing was empty. Dazed, shocked and unable to speak, he half crawled, half staggered to his van.

But the effects of the encounter had left him unable to drive or use the van's two-way radio.

He crawled and stumbled the mile-and-a-half to his home.

His wife Mary thought he had had a serious accident when he staggered into his house at 4 Broomyknowe Drive, Livingston Station.

She telephoned his boss, Mr. Malcolm Drummond, head of the Livingston Development Corporation Forestry Department.

Mrs. Taylor and Mr. Drummond were sceptical of his tale of the close encounter in the woods but Mr. Taylor insisted.

He persuaded Mr. Drummond to accompany him to the spot where the incident had taken place.

There Mr. Drummond, who has known Mr. Taylor for more than the 16 years he has worked for the LDC, saw a distinct pattern of marks on the ground.

'In the centre were something like caterpillar tracks surrounded by deep triangular marks the size of a horse's hoof,' said Mr. Drummond.

'But there were no tracks going to and from the site which is surrounded by trees.'

'What made them must have weighed more than a ton, possibly two tons.'

'I can't explain what made those marks but it must have come straight down and gone straight back up again.'

Mr. Drummond has no explanation for what caused Mr. Taylor's condition on Friday morning.

But he is in no doubt that Mr. Taylor is genuinely reporting what he saw or believes he saw.

'He is a very straightforward and serious bloke. He's not the type of man to make up fanciful stories.'

Mr. Taylor's doctor persuaded him to go to Bangour General Hospital for a general check-up to see if he was concussed.

He said he had suffered no ill-effects from his experience on Friday morning.

Until then he hadn't believed in flying saucers and UFOs.

'I've never read science fiction and I don't pay much attention to it on television.'

'But I definitely believe in them now,' said Mr. Taylor.

Mr. Fraser Gordon of the British UFO Research Association said Mr. Taylor's account was similar in many respects to other reports of encounters with UFOs.

A senior police officer said the tracks in the woods had been photographed. The matter is being treated seriously and reports have been forwarded to Lothian and Borders Police HQ in Edinburgh.

(accompanied by a photograph of the witness and his dog, captioned 'If only she could talk - Bob Taylor with Lara his Irish setter. Lara is a silent witness to her master's encounter with the unknown. He thinks her barking may have scared off the strange robots in Dachmont Woods.', and a crude diagram of the UFOs and marks, captioned 'SAUCERFUL OF SECRETS This is Mr. Taylor's drawing of what he saw in the lonely wood. At the far left are the marks left on the ground after the strange machine had disappeared. The 30-feet diameter, saucer-shaped craft itself and one of the robot spheres that approached Mr. Taylor are drawn to scale beside the shape of a man.)

(Edinburgh) Evening News (1979 Nov 29)

Is something strange going on in the skies over West Lothian? Something sinister and threatening? Are we being kept under surveillance by a civilisation from outer space? A remarkable number of people - solid, feet-on-the-ground, sober and intelligent citizens - would say that we are. People who would have scoffed at the very idea a matter of weeks ago, are not so sure any more. The thing that changed their minds was Bob Taylor's strange experience in a stretch of forestry in Livingston earlier this month.

BOB KNEW HE SAW IT ... but the big question is WHAT?

By Sheila McNamara

Everyone who knows Bob Taylor - his boss and his colleagues at the forestry and landscaping department of Livingston Development Corporation, his neighbours and friends - believes that he is not a man prone to seeing things or telling tall tales.

He's the archetypal countryman; quite a quiet, placid sort of chap. Doesn't use two words when one will do. Far too straightforward and uncomplicated to tell a deliberate lie.

Yet, at half past eleven on Friday morning, November 9, he stumbled into his home at Broomyknowe Drive, Livingston, slumped into a chair and told his wife he had been 'attacked' by strange objects from a spaceship.

He was weak, pale, hoarse, his chin was grazed, his trousers were torn, and his clothing was muddy.

His wife's first instinct was to call the doctor - not just because of his physical state, but because she thought he was having some sort of brainstorm. When he convinced her he wasn't in need of psychiatric help, she phoned his boss.

Naturally enough, she couldn't bring herself to say what her husband claimed to have been attacked by. His boss, Malcolm Drummond, automatically assumed he'd been beaten up by some 'thugs'. 'I'll rush straight up there now and maybe we'll manage to catch them,' he said. At which point Mrs. Taylor plucked up courage to suggest that he'd perhaps better have a word with Bob first.

He was the second one to hear the story Bob Taylor is now tired of repeating. It was about ten o'clock on a bright morning. He was going through the forest to check that all the gates were shut as the men had been working in there (Bob is in charge of four gangs of foresters) and he wanted to ensure that no sheep had strayed in from the surrounding hillsides.

He doesn't drink, he isn't on any kind of pills, and the forest is free from chemical spraying.

So, there is no reason of that kind to explain what he saw when he came to a clearing. 'It was a spaceship,' he says simply. A thing he didn't believe in - had never given a serious thought to, in his life. But there it was, stationary, grey, completely silent, and with some sort of rim round the centre.

His account is a bit vague - as an eye-witness account of a shock event always is. He can't quite recall what the underside of the craft looked like. He stood there in amazement for about half a minute and then suddenly two 'things' - some sort of mechanical devices, round in shape with feet sticking out of them, like wartime mines - came from either beneath or behind the main object. He heard the soft 'plop' as they hit the grass together, then they separated and started rolling towards him, one on each side, until they came alongside him. One touched him.

Then came a strange, choking smell 'like brake linings burning' and he passed out. When Bob came to he was alone, except for his red setter dog whom he remembers barking wildly. He tried to climb to his feet. He couldn't. Weakly he crawled up the hill, staggered the last few yards to where his van was parked and in his confusion while trying to turn it he ran off the road into the ditch.

When Mr. Drummond and some of his staff drove up to the site, they were astonished to see marks on the ground where the leg struts of some machine weighing several tons could have rested. Alongside were two parallel, ladder-type indentations in the grass. The sort of effect you get when something has lain so long in grass that it takes on the impression of the object.

They took one look and called the police. After investigating all the circumstances, and checking out Mr. Taylor and his story they were convinced it was no hoax. 'We're completely baffled,' confessed Divisional Chief Superintendent Jack Whitson.

Mr. Taylor's experience is far the most bizarre, but since it came to light, scores of people have come forward to report sightings over the Lothian skies of strange flying objects which, they insist, are not planes or helicopters.

Bathgate housewife Mrs. Violet Connor saw a long, cigar-shaped object radiating an extremely bright light in the skies over Armadale as she was travelling on the bus with her sister, the same morning as Mr. Taylor saw his spaceship.

A young Pumpherston mother was called to the door of her house the evening before by a group of children playing in the street. 'I saw five or six of them - pinpricks of light - which the kids called funny stars, and they shot off towards the south-east. They certainly were not planes or helicopters, and they certainly weren't planets. But please don't use my name, this is a small village and I don't want folk to think I'm seeing things.'

She needn't have worried. Similar sightings have been made by hundreds, including reliable witnesses like two pilots heading for Glasgow last month, and staff at RAF Pitreavie and Kinloss who traced it on their radar.

In recent weeks, the police, the Royal Observatory on Blackford Hill and the Edinburgh branch of the UFO Research Association have had an upsurge in the regular number of sightings they are told about each month.

At the Royal Observatory, scientist Alan Pickup told me: 'People tend to keep quiet about it until they read of some other person's experience. It is, actually, quite a common occurrence. Mostly, they see a man-made satellite, of which there are hundreds, or they see a planet or a meteorite, sometimes a fireball.'

'Another thing people tend to mistake for spaceships are meteorological balloons which have drifted off course when there is a strong northerly air stream.'

But the man who reckons he has the nearest explanation for Mr. Taylor's experience is Mr. Steuart Campbell of the Scottish UFO Society.

'It was probably a fireball. Most sightings are. There are a lot of them around and science doesn't fully understand the phenomenon. Ball lightning varies in size - usually from an apple to a football: it is mostly orangey-yellow, but it can be any colour. It can follow telegraph wires, bounce down a road, or stay in the sky in a stationary position, completely silent. Sometimes though, it emits a humming noise like a vacuum cleaner.'

'Mr. Taylor's description of a round, bubble-type object with a rim round the centre fits the bill. The rim in ball lightning is caused by centrifugal force, and the holes in the ground could be caused by electric shorts.'

'The two smaller ones are much more typical ball lightning. They are just plasmas of ionised air in a spherical form and they are electronically reactive. They were probably attracted towards Mr. Taylor because of electrical activity.'

'Also, they give off ozone, which has a sulphurous, acrid smell.'

'But what about the ladder-like patterns pressed into the grass? I can't speculate on what those were,' he said.

Still, it is a convincing explanation. But it's not the whole story. The question remains - what is?

(Accompanied by a photograph of the witness, captioned 'Bob Taylor, at the spot of his sighting in the forest', and the original drawing of the UFOs, captioned 'Sketched to Bob Taylor's description, this artist's impression shows accurately the object he claims he saw, including the two self-propelled spheres which rushed towards him. After being shown the drawing, Bob agreed "That's what I saw".')



